

DECISION NOTICE

Notice is given that the following decision has been taken under the Provisions set out in the Council's Constitution

Decision maker: Cabinet Member for Localism and Enforcement

Date: 5 December 2014

Decision in the matter of: Variation to Hackney Carriage Table of Fares - Consultation Responses

- Decision:**
1. That phase one of the proposal be implemented.
 2. That any future proposals for change be subject to full consultation and that the Council be committed to listening to the views of taxi drivers, owners and local residents.
 3. That the Licensing Team Leader be authorised to take all necessary action to implement phase one including writing and advertising the statutory public notices.
 4. In the event of any objections being received following placement the notices a further Portfolio Holder meeting be arranged to consider them.
 5. If no objections are received the table of fares for each zone, having been advertised in accordance with the requirements of Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, will automatically come into force on the date specified in the public notices.

Background: The history of the Councils proposals to amend hackney carriage fares was reported and had been considered on a number of previous occasions. In July 2014, the Portfolio Holder considered objections received in response to Notices concerning the harmonisation of fares across the Borough and, at that time, he resolved that the proposals in the May 2014 Notices should not be implemented at that time and that the Licensing Officers should draw up proposals for the proposed harmonisation to be introduced in a number of stages.

Proposals for harmonising the fares over a number of steps have, therefore, been drawn up and include the first mile and flag rates eventually being the same, and for waiting time to be included in any proposals. There has been a 6 week consultation period on these proposals, including drop-in sessions, and responses received during the consultation period were reported. In addition the report included information on Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the results of an Office for Fair Trading market study on the regulation

of licensed taxi and PHV services, and also best practice guidance produced by the DfT on taxi and private hire licencing.

The table of fares should be set to enable:

- A sustainable income for drivers; it is important that both the public and trade recognise that the Council sets the maximum fares payable rather than a fixed rate.
- Future investment in vehicles to ensure they remain safe and suitable for use as a working vehicle.
- Clear and simple maximum charges that minimise the opportunity for overcharging or confusion.

The Council has no power to set the fees for private hire vehicles. In addition the table of fares is not applicable to vehicles licensed by other Boroughs but working in the Borough.

Background Documents:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report author.

Approved:

Signed
Councillor Les Gilbert (Cabinet Member for Localism and Enforcement)

Date:

5 December 2014

Advising Officer:

Signed
Kim Evans (Licensing Team Leader)