

| Report of:  | Meeting | Date        |
|---|---------|-------------|
| Councillor Roger Berry,<br>Neighbourhood Services and<br>Community Safety Portfolio<br>Holder and Mark Billington,<br>Corporate Director<br>Environment | Cabinet | 7 June 2023 |

### Variation to the Wyre Hackney Carriage Tariff

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To consider the recommendation from the Licensing Committee to revise the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares.

#### 2. Outcomes

- 2.1 To agree to amend the table of fares for Wyre licensed Hackney Carriages, in accordance with the recommendation of the Licensing Committee (Minute 23 from Licensing Committee on 25 April 2023).

#### 3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the revised table of fares be approved and implemented from 7 July 2023, subject to the proper consideration of any responses to the public notice.
- 3.2 That the Senior Licensing Officer advertise the variation in accordance with section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1976 (Appendix 1).

#### 4. Background

- 4.1 Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows district councils to fix the maximum rates of fares for hackney carriage journeys (but not for private hire vehicles which are determined by market forces). No time period has been set by the Act for the review of such fares but the council would be required to publish a notice setting out any variation to the existing table in at least one local newspaper circulating within the borough. Additionally, the council would also be required to display a notice, containing the specifics of the newspaper

advertisement, at their main offices for a period of 14 days which would commence on the first day of publication.

- 4.2 In support of the above please take note that section 10.1 of the current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy for Wyre Council outlines that “The Council is responsible for setting the Hackney Carriage Tariff, which is a table of the maximum fares that may be charged for a journey”.
- 4.3 The last variation to increase the tariff was implemented on 4 October 2022. A copy of the current table of fares for Wyre is attached at Appendix 2.
- 4.4 The provision of taxis is an integral part of the transport infrastructure and is particularly influential in the transportation of individuals late at night when other forms of public transport services have ceased. The provision of affordable taxis assist in community safety by ensuring people are removed from town centres safely.
- 4.5 In addition to this it is important to consider that hackney carriages provide a vital form of transport for the disabled who may have difficulties accessing other forms of public transport. On this basis it is critically important to ensure that fares are maintained at a level which will encourage investment in Disability Discrimination Act 1998 and Equality Act 2010 compliant and low emission vehicles yet remain affordable to disabled people.

## **5. Key issues and proposals**

- 5.1 Representatives of the licensed trade within Wyre lodged proposals to vary existing tariffs on 7 February 2023 (Appendix 3).
- 5.2 An accurate comparison of proposed and existing tariffs (including percentage increases) can be viewed at Appendix 4. This document was created with the use of a tariff calculator and based solely on the data contained within the proposals put forward by the trade.
- 5.3 A trade-wide consultation was launched on 15 March 2023 and ran until midnight on 31 March 2023. The options circulated to the trade consisted of the two proposals they had put forward and an option for no changes to be made to the existing table of fares. A copy of the information they were provided with can be viewed in full at Appendix 5.
- 5.4 The results of the poll can be reviewed at Appendix 6 and clearly highlight that the overwhelming majority voted for option 3 which would in effect result in increases of 15% for tariff 1 and 15.48% for tariff 2.
- 5.5 The Licensing Committee considered the proposals on 25 April 2023 and agreed to recommend proposal 3 of Appendix 5.

**5.6** Benchmarking comparisons for Hackney fares are usually expressed as a two mile journey on Tariff 1. Wyre’s fare is currently £6.70. By comparison:

Ribble Valley is £8.00 (increased 1 October 2022);  
 Blackpool is £6.00 (increased January 2023);  
 Lancaster £6.60 (increased 12 April 2023);  
 Fylde is £6.70 (increased 31 August 2022), and;  
 Preston is £6.00 (effective date not specified on their website).

**5.7** The recommendation will increase Wyre’s fare from £6.70 to £7.50. A list of tariff cards can be viewed at Appendix 7 and a comparison of ‘at the pump’ fuel prices can be viewed at Appendix 8. Additionally, a copy of the Hackney Carriage Fare League Tables can be viewed at Appendix 9.

**5.8** The council must give at least fourteen days’ notice of its intention to vary the Hackney Carriage Tariff.

| <b>Financial and legal implications</b> |   |
|---|---|
| Finance                                 | There are no direct financial implications for the council in setting the fares for hackney carriages, except the statutory advertising cost in a local newspaper which will be met from within existing budgets. |
| Legal                                   | The power to set the maximum fares for hackney carriages is contained in section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.  |

**Other risks/implications: checklist**

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

| <b>risks/implications</b> | <b>✓ / x</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| community safety          | ✓            |
| equality and diversity    | ✓            |
| sustainability            | X            |
| health and safety         | X            |

| <b>risks/implications</b> | <b>✓ / x</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| asset management          | X            |
| climate change            | X            |
| ICT                       | X            |
| data protection           | X            |

**Processing Personal Data**

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

| report author   | telephone no. | email  | date       |
|-----------------|---------------|--|------------|
| Patrick Cantley | 887281        | <a href="mailto:patrick.cantley@wyre.gov.uk">patrick.cantley@wyre.gov.uk</a> | 2 May 2023 |

| List of background papers:                 |               |   |
|--|---------------|---|
| name of document                           | date          | where available for inspection  |
| Licensing Committee Report – Agenda item 4 | 25 April 2023 | <a href="#">Agenda for Licensing Committee on Tuesday, 25th April, 2023, 6.00 pm (modern.gov.co.uk)</a> |
| Minutes from Licensing Committee           | 25 April 2023 | <a href="#">Minutes Template (modern.gov.co.uk)</a>   |

#### List of appendices

**Appendix 1 – Gazette Tariff Advert for 2023**

**Appendix 2 – Current Table of fares for Wyre**

**Appendix 3 – Proposals Bundle**

**Appendix 4 – Comparison of existing tariff against proposed changes**

**Appendix 5 – Wyre Council Taxi Tariff Consultation**

**Appendix 6 – Results of the consultation**

**Appendix 7 – Other tariff cards**

**Appendix 8 – At pump prices over time**

**Appendix 9 – Hackney Carriage Fares League Table**