

Board/Committee:	Regulatory Board
Date of meeting:	24 July 2024
Title:	Application for Hackney Carriage Tariff Increase
Author:	Ian Rickman
Status:	For Decision

Purpose

A request has been received from a Hackney Carriage Proprietor for a review of the Hackney Carriage Taxi Tariff.

Recommendation

That the Board reviews the current Hackney Carriage Taxi Tariff and considers the proposals made, relating to:-

- a) Increase of 20-30pence at the end of a fare. (The reality is that this would be achieved by +30 pence on the pull off charge).
- b) Change the start +50% charging period time from midnight to 23:30.

1.0 Background

1.1 Under Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the Local Authority has the power to set fares for Hackney Carriages. Where the fares are set by the Local Authority, it has a responsibility to review those fares (The Hackney Carriage Tariff) to ensure it remains fair and reasonable.

1.2 The last time the Regulatory Board considered the level of Hackney Carriage Tariff, was in September 2022.

2.0 Report

2.1 On 5 February 2024, a licensed Gosport Borough Council taxi proprietor, submitted a request for a change to the Hackney Carriage Taxi Tariff. The application was accompanied by a petition supported by 21 signatures from other Gosport Borough Council Hackney Carriage proprietors. This can be viewed at **Appendix A**.

2.2 The consultation period ran from 22 March 2024 until 13 April 2024. During the consultation we received 6 in time responses and 1 out of time response. A summary of the responses as well as the individual responses can be seen at **Appendix B**.

2.2 The last increase to the Gosport Borough Council Hackney Carriage Tariff was awarded in September 2022.

2.3 The following indices show the inflation trends since the last report to Members for the September 2022 tariff increase:

Average earnings 1.8% September 2022 – March

2024

Motoring Expenditure 24.3% September 2022 – March 2024

Fares and other travel costs -1.9% September 2022 – March 2024

Retail Price Index (RPI) 35.4% September 2022 – March 2024

2.4 Members are asked to review the fares comparison spreadsheet (**Appendix C**) and consider the requested increase in Tariff, and determine the appropriate level of Tariff.

2.5 The current Hackney Carriage Tariff can be seen at **Appendix D**.

2.6 The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) can be seen at **Appendix E**, no negative impact.

3.0 Risk Assessment

3.1 Setting the Hackney Carriage Tariff at the right level for Gosport is important to ensure the economic viability of the trade and also having an affordable Tariff for the travelling (often vulnerable) member of the public.

4.0 Conclusion

That members consider the information contained in the report and determine the appropriate level of Gosport Hackney Carriage Taxi Tariff.

Financial Services comments:	<i>[Contained within the report?] – often these comments are so pervasive, or require their own section within the report that putting them into a small box at the end of the report is unhelpful</i>
Legal Services comments:	<i>[Contained within the report?] – as per the Financial Services comments.</i>
Equality and Diversity:	<i>Refer to the Integrated Impact Assessment and please liaise with Corporate Policy regarding this section</i>
Climate Change implications:	<i>Refer to the Integrated Impact Assessment, and liaise with Corporate Policy regarding whether there are any climate change implications or other work going on in this area that your report may affect or assist with</i>
Crime and Disorder:	<i>Again, worth liaising with Corporate Policy team on this</i>
Service Improvement Plan implications:	<i>Please consider your own individual service's requirements and the implication of your report on the service's work</i>
Corporate Plan:	<i>See the Corporate Plan on a page to consider</i>

	<i>how the report is affected</i>
Risk Assessment:	<i>If the risk assessment is extensive you may choose to add a further section to the report to cover this off and refer in this box to that section [shown in section 3 by way of example]</i>
Background Papers:	None
Appendices:	Appendix A – Initial request and petition Appendix B – Consultation responses Appendix C – Fare comparison Appendix D – Current Tariff Card
Report Author/Lead Officer:	Ian Rickman