

Report of Corporate Director for Place

To

Licensing Committee

On

24th January 2014

Report prepared by: Allan Evans

Review of Hackney Carriage Fares Objections

A Part I Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Members are invited to consider objections to the new Schedule of Authorised Fares which were approved by Licensing Committee on 15 November 2013.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **To consider the objections raised and to set a further date not later than 2 months after the first specified date, on which the table of fares as set out in Appendix 1 shall come into force with or without modifications as decided by them after consideration of the objections.**
- 2.2 **That any modifications to the Schedule of Authorised Fares and extra charges shall come into force no later than 13th February 2014.**

Background

- 3.1 The Council is empowered to determine fares for Hackney Carriages. In addition, all those Private Hire vehicles which are equipped with a meter must also apply the same fares. On 15th November 2013 Licensing Committee met to consider an increase in the authorised fares. A report was placed before Committee by officers of the Council and a new fare table approved. It was resolved to duly advertise in a local newspaper the increase for any objections to the table of fares or variation to be made.
- 3.2 The statutory time for objections to any advertised variation to the table of fares is fourteen days. On 20 November 2013 the Schedule of Authorised Fares was advertised in the Southend Echo and further advertised on 28 November 2013. During the 14 days advertised for objections, officers from the council received 9 objections to the variation in the table of fares.
- 3.3 The 9 objections mentioned in paragraph 3.2 above have all been made on the grounds of the current economic climate, and refer to the recession, economic hardship of many users of taxis, in particular the elderly. There is also mention of any increase being bad for the taxi trade in terms of losing customers due to the variation. All letters of objection are shown in background papers.

4. Corporate Implications

4.1 *Resource Implications*

None.

4.2 *Contribution to Council's Vision and Critical Priorities*

To maintain and improve transport availability within the Borough.

4.3 *Consultation*

All recommendations have been fully consulted with officers and interested parties.

4.4 *Equalities Impact Assessment*

No assessment necessary.

4.5 *Risk Assessment*

No risk assessment necessary.

4.6 *Community Safety Implications*

To maintain a Taxi and Hire Car service within the Borough and assisting with night time economy dispersal of persons leaving town centre.

4.7 *Environmental Impact*

Making transport available to impact on reduction of crime and disorder in the town centre.

5. Background Papers

Written Objections.

Copy of Council advert of schedule of authorised fares

6. Appendices

6.1 *Appendix 1 - Proposed fare chart.*