

agenda

Item no.

on

Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

Meeting: Licensing Committee

Date: 2 March 2006

Report of: Director of Environmental Services

Subject: Hackney Carriage Fare Review

Ward(s) affected: All

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To seek the Committee's authority to advertise proposed fare increases following the hackney carriage trade's request for an increase in fares.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Committee authorise the relevant Director to advertise proposed variation in fares, and invite any objections in accordance with the legal requirements.
- 2.2 Agree that if no objections are made, or if any objections which are made are withdrawn, the varied table of fares comes into force at a date to be decided by the relevant Director.
- 2.3 Reconsider the matter at the next meeting of the Licensing Committee if valid objections are made but not withdrawn.

3. Information/background

- 3.1 The last hackney carriage fare increase occurred in March 2004. The hackney carriage trade now seeks a variation.

- 3.2 The council uses a formula to establish the highest rate of basic fares it will consider. Any additions are negotiated separately. Financial information is being sought to compare the trade's proposal against the agreed formula.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 The subject of the fare review is a standing agenda item at the council's hackney carriage and private hire consultation forum where all members of that forum are free to express their opinions. The forum members have delegated negotiations to selected representatives.
- 4.2 The procedure for presenting the trade's request for a review is being followed. This involves the trade's representatives making representations to the Committee Chair and officers and the trade's representatives accepting the recommendations as reasonable. Officers will arrange this once the proposed variation has been compare to the formula.

COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX A



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Financial implications

The cost of advertising the proposed increase will be in the region of £800 and it will be met from the hackney carriage budget.

Legal implications

Any proposed increase which is agreed is required by law to be advertised allowing a minimum of 14 days for objections. If there are objections the Council is required to consider them and, if it still wishes to change the fares, to fix a further date for the coming into force of the new fares. A copy of the notice is also required to be deposited in the Council offices and be available for public inspection without payment.

Corporate/Citywide implications In balancing conflicting needs and expectations, local authorities face challenges.	Risk assessment None.
Sustainability implications Taxi and private hire vehicles provide important links in the transport network recognized in the local transport plan.	Equalities implications Reasons for fare regulation include protection of consumers in vulnerable situations but there could be price competition below the regulated maximum set.
Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder This increase is part of a solution to alleviate the problem of shortage of hackney carriage availability at those times, the others being to increase the number of licensed hackney carriages and to improve driver safety by increased police presence at the busy ranks and response to problems as they arise.	

Background papers

None.

Contact Officer

Martin Seymour David Collins, ext. 6658 & 6659