

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

REPORT AUTHOR: Sue Jones, Senior Licensing Officer

SUBJECT: Consultation on Taxi Licence Fees

28th February 2019

UPDATE REPORT

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The reason for the update is that the consultation on the Taxi Licence Fees presented to this committee on 6th December 2018 was completed on 17th January 2019. A copy of the original report is attached at Annex A
- 1.2 Following December's meeting a notice of the proposed fees was posted in both the County Times and Brecon and Radnor Express, the notice appeared on 20th December 2018 and allowed 28 days for representations.
- 1.3 One response was received from Mr Graham Davies, proprietor of Brecon Taxis, his full response is attached at Annex B, below is his key concern.

In 2017 Hackney Carriage fees were £129, in 2018 this went up to £133, a 3% increase. Now you are proposing an increase to £138, a 4% increase.

Since May 2011 there has been a 20 pence increase for a 4 seater taxi that operates during normal hours, which equates to 6% rise in 7 years for local runs. On a 5 mile journey this decreases to a 2% increase and with a 10 mile journey there is less than a 1% increase. There has been no increase for larger taxis, in fact after midnight there is only a 10 pence running mile difference between a 4 seater taxi and an 8 seater.

In today's climate of ever increasing running costs it would be wrong for the Licensing Authority to put up fees without increasing the fares correspondingly

- 1.4 Taxi fares were last reviewed in 2017, a survey was carried out with the taxi trade and a new table of fares was approved by cabinet for implementation on 1st January 2018. The revised table of fares took into account the responses to the survey that amounted to a few small changes. The current fare table is produced at Annex C
- 1.5 In light of the comments made by Mr Davies it is proposed that a further review of taxi fares takes place during 2019, and that in the first instance the authority surveys the trade to see what further increases are thought appropriate, in addition a benchmarking exercise comparing taxi fares across Wales is easily conducted as this information is readily available in the taxi

trade press. Should any increases be deemed appropriate then a new proposed table of fares can be drafted for consultation.

- 1.6 The fees proposed and consulted on is aimed at achieving cost recovery for administration of the taxi licensing regime as far as is permitted, however in light of the objection received Members are invited to re-consider and depart from these fees if thought necessary.
- 1.7 There is no requirement to re-advertise any revised fees and they can still come into effect from 1st April 2019, It is recommended that the fees come into force on 1st April 2019 in line with the original report.

Recommendation:		Reason for Recommendation:	
<p>To approve the proposed taxi fees, as reported on 6th December 2019 to come into effect on 1st April 2019 .</p> <p>A review of taxi fares be undertaken to assess the need for a new table of fares.</p>		<p>To enable a new compliant fee to be set for licences issued under The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.</p> <p>To ensure the table of fares are deemed appropriate.</p>	
Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y
Relevant Local Member(s):	N/A		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr James Evans		
Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Sue Jones		
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:		With immediate effect	
Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
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Background Papers used to prepare Report:

