

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: COMMITTEE OF THE LICENSING AUTHORITY

BY: HEAD OF COMMUNITY & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

SUBJECT: Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing

PURPOSE: To consider altering the fare and soiling charges for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council as the licensing authority is allowed to regulate maximum permitted charges and fares, allowed to be charged for passengers of Licensed Vehicles. The Spalding Taxi Forum and operators generally have raised concerns about the fact that there have not been any increases in the maximum charges since February 2002, despite having to absorb increased operating costs [The main one being the increased cost of fuel] Attached at Appendix A to this report is the current maximum permitted fees allowed to be charged. Currently there is a set call out rate and first half mile is free. The trade have expressed concern that for very short journeys, this is not economically viable.

The current maximum permitted soiling charge is £40.00 Concern has been raised by the Spalding Taxi Forum [although it must be appreciated that this does not represent the entire trade] that the cost of getting the vehicle valeted exceeds £40.00 and also the vehicle may have to be taken out of service for a period of time and no income is generated.

2.0 FINANCIAL & LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 There are no legal implications. If the recommendation is accepted there will be a financial obligation to advertise the increased fares and allow for a 14 day objection period. Current budgetary provision has already been made for advertising and will be met out of the current Licensing budget.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the committee approve one of the following recommendations:

Option 1 For Rate 1, 2 and 3 the first half mile free be dropped, so that the meter starts to run immediately from the set rate and the Soiling charge be increased to £60.00

Option 2 The committee leave the current charges unaltered.

Option 3 The committee increase charges as they think fit.

If Option 1 or 2 is adopted, then a period will be needed to arrange for meters to be changed. Therefore any new fees will become operational on 1st September 2006.

If option 3 is adopted and charges are increased significantly, consideration should be given to “knock-on” effects, such as persons on low income and economy considerations.

Appendices:-	Appendix A – Table of Fares
Background Papers:-	None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Please contact Craig Fowler, the Team Leader for Food Safety and Licensing if you want more information about this report or the background papers. You can contact him:

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