

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING
COMMITTEE

AGENDA
ITEM NO

6

7 DECEMBER 2017

Report Title	STROUD DISTRICT TAXI FARES
Purpose of Report	To consider recommendations by the Task and Finish Group regarding a proposal by Stroud Taxi Association to increase Stroud District taxi fares.
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES: a) That Stroud District taxi fares are increased in accordance with the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group in Appendix 4. b) If (a) is resolved, or any variation on the recommendation, the procedure and delegation outlined in paragraph 4.2 of this report shall apply.
Consultation and Feedback	The Stroud Taxi Association proposal and the Task and Finish Group recommendations have been circulated to all Stroud district licensed taxi and private hire drivers and to all meter fitters for comment.
Financial Implications and Risk Assessment	There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from this report. Adele Rudkin Accountant Tel : 01453 754109 Email: adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk Risk Assessment There is not a direct right of appeal against the fares set by a Local Authority, however any party that is dissatisfied by the fares could seek a judicial review against the Council.
Legal Implications	Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 makes provision for the local authority to fix in a table of fares, the rates or fares for time, distance and all other charges in connection with the hire of a hackney carriage. As outlined in the report there is a statutory procedure which must be followed if the Council decides to vary the rates / fares of which failure to follow will make the changes unlawful. (Ref:rc14.11.17) Karen Trickey, Head of Legal Services Email: karen.trickey@stroud.gov.uk

Report Author	Rachel Andrew Principal Licensing Officer Tel: 01453 754401 Email: rachel.andrew@stroud.gov.uk On behalf of the Chair of the Task and Finish Group
Options	Alternative resolutions to the proposed decision are: (a) not make any changes to the current fares Or (b) make alternative changes to current fares to those recommended by the Task and Finish Group in Appendix 4.
Appendices	Appendix 1 - Notes from Task and Finish Group meeting Appendix 2 - Fare comparison table Appendix 3 - Schedule of consultation comments Appendix 4 - Stroud Taxi Association Proposal and Task and Finish Group Recommendation

1 Background

- 1.1 Stroud District Council sets the maximum fare that can be charged by Stroud District licensed taxis.
- 1.2 Stroud District fares are split into 3 rates which in summary are:
- **Rate 1** - Day 07:00 to 18:00
 - **Rate 2** - Evening 18:00 to 01.00 and 07:00 to 01:00 Sundays and Bank Holidays
 - **Rate 3** - Night 01:00 to 07:00 and Xmas and New Year
- 1.3 Each rate is broken down into the following elements:
- **Starting rate** – the amount the meter will show when the journey starts.
 - **Yardage** – the distance in yards after which the meter adds an additional 30p to the fare when the vehicle is moving.
 - **Waiting time** – the time in seconds after which the meter adds an additional 30p to the fare if the vehicle is driving slowly or is stationary.
- 1.4 In 2016 a request was made by Stroud Taxi Association to increase Stroud District taxi fares. In December 2016 the Committee resolved not to increase the fares but said it would be content to consider another request in 12 months time.

2 Stroud Taxi Association Proposal 2017

- 2.1 In August 2017 the Licensing Section received a revised proposal for a fare increase from Stroud Taxi Association. The proposal is shown in detail in Appendix 4.

3 Task and Finish Group

- 3.1 A Task and Finish Group made up of four Members of the Community Services and Licensing Committee have considered the Stroud Taxi Association proposal with a view to making a recommendation to this committee.
- 3.2 The Group met three times and at the second meeting they invited representatives of Stroud Taxi Association to attend and put their case forward.
- 3.3 Appendix 1 is the notes from the Task and Finish Group meeting. The notes include the considerations of the Group when making their recommendations.
- 3.4 Appendix 2 is a comparison table that shows Stroud District current, proposed and recommended rates in comparison with the rest of Gloucestershire.
- 3.5 A newsletter has been sent to all Stroud District taxi and private hire licence holders with details of the Stroud Taxi Association proposal and the Task and Finish Group recommendations. The newsletter invited licence holders to make comment. Appendix 3 is a schedule of responses which was circulated to the Task and Finish Group. The Group considered the responses but have decided to not make any amendments to their recommendations.

4 Recommendation

- 4.1 The recommendation of the Task and Finish Group is that Committee resolves to approve the proposal made by Stroud Taxi Association but with some amendments as put forward by the Group. The full recommendation is detailed in Appendix 4.
- 4.2 In accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, if a Local Authority agrees to vary taxi fares, it must first give public notice as prescribed by the Act. If Committee resolves to vary Stroud District taxi fares, it is recommended that the Committee also resolves to agree to the procedure for giving notice of a consultation period as detailed below:
 - a. The revised fares are published in a local newspaper and there is a notice at the Council Offices specifying a period of at least 14 days during which the public can make an objection;
 - b. If no objections are received within the consultation period; or any objections are withdrawn, the revised fares be effective from 1 February

2018; or, if it is later, the expiration of the period for consultation or withdrawal of the last objection (whichever is last);

c. If any objections are received during the consultation period and not withdrawn, the Head of Health and Wellbeing will be authorised (in consultation with the Community Services and Licensing Committee Chair and Vice Chair and the Principal Licensing Officer) to:

- (i) determine, following consideration of the objection(s) whether to approve the fare table with or without modifications; and
- (ii) set a date no later than 2 months of the expiration of the consultation period, being the date when the determined fares shall have effect.