

To: General Purposes Licensing Sub Committee
Date: 15th June 2011 **Item No:**
Report of: Head of Environmental Development
Title of Report: Hackney Carriage Tariff – Application for Increase

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To determine whether an automatic increase to the Hackney Carriage Tariff of 20 pence per journey be applied upon the price of a litre of diesel fuel reaching £1.50.

Report Approved by: Head of Environmental Development

Finance: Paul Swaffield

Legal: Daniel Smith

Policy Framework: A vibrant and sustainable economy

Recommendation(s):

- i) The Committee is requested to approve that the Head of Environmental Development may, subject to the consideration of any objections received, amend the table of fares to introduce an automatic surcharge of 20 pence per journey be applied to all fares when the price of a litre of diesel fuel reaches £1.50 per litre at a predetermined list of local fuel outlets; and
- ii) That upon the price of a litre of diesel fuel falling below the £1.50 threshold at any of the listed fuel outlets, that the surcharge be automatically revoked.
- iii) That the Head of Environmental Development publish notice of the surcharge in accordance with Section 65 (2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- iv) That the Head of Environmental Development consider any objections received in consultation with the Chair of the Committee before introduction of the surcharge.

Introduction

1. At a meeting of the General Purposes Licensing Committee on 28th October 2008, the Committee resolved to agree that officers be asked, should the cost of diesel increase to £1.50 per litre, to convene a meeting of the General Purposes Licensing Committee in order to determine if a review of the Hackney Carriage Tariffs was necessary.

2. With the current rise in the cost of both petrol and diesel, the City of Oxford Licensed Taxi Association (COLTA) has requested that this matter be referred back to the General Purposes Licensing Committee, in order to gain approval for a 20 pence surcharge per journey be automatically applied to the Hackney Carriage Tariff upon the price of a litre of diesel fuel rising to £1.50.

Background

3. At the General Purposes Licensing Committee on 28th October 2008, COLTA proposed that “an automatic trigger system be adopted, where the surcharge could be applied by use of the taximeters “extras” button, a surcharge of 20 pence per journey could be applied to all fares.
4. COLTA proposed that the system could be triggered when the £1.50 per litre of diesel limit was reached by all of the fuel stations on a predetermined list (London Road, Headington; Garsington Road, Cowley; Oxpens Service Station).
5. Should the limit be reached and the surcharge levied, an official notice issued by Oxford City Council would be displayed on the Hackney Carriages.
6. Should the price of a litre of diesel fuel fall below £1.50 at one or more of the fuel stations on a predetermined list, then the 20 pence surcharge per journey will be revoked, until such time as the price of fuel reaches the £1.50 per litre “automatic trigger”.

Legal Considerations

7. There are no financial considerations for the Authority regarding the content of this report.

Financial Considerations

8. Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides a power to the Authority to fix fares and charges subject to a requirement to give notice of the proposed charges and consider any objections.

Recommendations

9. The Committee is recommended to:
 - i) Approve that the Head of Environmental Development may, subject to the consideration of any objections received, amend the table of fares to introduce an automatic surcharge of 20 pence per journey to all fares when the price of a litre of diesel fuel reaches £1.50 per litre at a predetermined list of local fuel outlets; and
 - ii) That upon the price of a litre of diesel fuel falling below the £1.50 threshold at any of the listed fuel outlets, that the surcharge be automatically revoked.

- iii) That the Head of Environmental Development publish notice of the surcharge in accordance with Section 65 (2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- iv) That the Head of Environmental Development consider any objections received in consultation with the Chair of the Committee before introduction of the surcharge.

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Background papers:

Version number:1

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