

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL****LICENSING & APPEALS COMMITTEE****26 January 2022****Report of the Director of Central Services and Deputy Chief Executive****Part 1- Public****Delegated****1 OBJECTION TO HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES SET ON 16 NOVEMBER 2021****1.1 Background**

1.1.1 On the 16 November 2021 Members agreed to an increase of Hackney Carriage Fares. The new proposed Fare increase was advertised for 14 days, starting on the 23 December 2021, and finishing on the 6 January 2022. A copy of the report for the 14 March is shown **as Annex 1**.

1.1.2 During this 14-day notice period Licensing Services received three formal objections to the Fare increase set on the 16 November 2021.

- 1) Objection #1. A copy is shown at **Annex 2**
- 2) Objection #2. A copy is shown at **Annex 3**
- 3) Objection #3. A copy is shown at **Annex 4**

**1.2 Legal Implications**

1.2.1 Any proposal to vary the table of fares is subject to consultation. Under the Local Government Act 1976 – Section 65, any fares approved by the Council must be advertised via a public notice in a local newspaper. Any relevant objections received would need to be reported back to Members for consideration.

**1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

1.3.1 It should be noted that the tariff is the maximum fare that can be charged, and discounts can be given, should the driver wish.

**1.4 Risk Assessment**

1.4.1 Approval of a new maximum fare, below the expectation of the hackney carriage trade, may result in dissatisfaction from the trade. Increasing the maximum fare may result in complaints from members of the public.

## **1.5 Equality Impact Assessment**

- 1.5.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

## **1.6 Recommendations**

- 1.6.1 Members are invited to consider the three objections to increasing the Hackney Carriage Fares as detailed in Annex 2, 3 and 4 of the report.

In the event that Members are minded to approve an increase in the maximum fares, it is recommended that any change take effect from 1 March 2022 to allow for the statutory public consultation period. If any relevant objections are received during the period these will be reported to the Committee so that Members may consider whether to proceed with the proposed increase.

### 1.6.2

Background papers:

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Nil

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