

AGENDA ITEM NO.

REPORT: Regulatory Committee
DATE: 5th July 2017
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Policy and Resources
PORTFOLIO: Community & Resources
SUBJECT: Taxi Licensing Matter
WARDS: Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider proposed variations to the Council's Table of Fares.

2. RECOMMENDED

That the proposed variation to the Council's Table of Fares as set out at paragraph 4.3 of this report be advertised in the local press in accordance with section 65 Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 and the variation shall (subject to the provisions of that section) take effect on 5th August 2017;

3. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 On 11th January 2017 representatives of Mersey Gateway updated the Taxi Consultative Group on various proposals relating the effect of tolling on the taxi trade. Following representations these proposals have continued to evolve. The latest information was presented to the Taxi Consultative Group on 20th April 2017.

3.2 These proposals will have an impact on the Councils Table of Fares.

The Table of Fares

3.3 Variations to the Council's Table of Fares are the responsibility of the Regulatory Committee subject to the procedures set out in section 65 Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 which states:-

1. A notice must be published in a local newspaper stating the proposed fares or variation of the fares.
2. This must specify a date, not less than 14 days from the date on which the notice is first published. The date has two functions:
 - (a) It is the date by which any objections must be lodged, and
 - (b) It is the date on which the revised fares will come into effect if either
 - (i) No objections are received, or
 - (ii) Any objections received have been withdrawn before the specified date
3. It must also state where objections should be addressed and how they can be made. Obviously it is desirable for such objections to be lodged in writing as opposed to any other method (although objection by a fax or e mail should be acceptable)
4. A copy of the notice must be available at the council offices for inspection, free of charge at reasonable times.
5. Once the objection period (usually 14 days) has expired, if there have been no objections received or those received have subsequently been withdrawn, then the new fares take effect, either at the end of the objection period or when the last objection is withdrawn.
6. However, if objections are made and are not withdrawn, then the council must consider the objections.
7. In the light of those objections (although it must consider them, it does not have to vary the proposed fare as a result of them) the council then sets a second date which cannot be more than two months after the first date specified, when the new fares come into force with or without modification.

4. PROPOSED VARIATION TO THE TABLE OF FARES

- 4.1 There are no proposed variations to the level of metered fares. The variation is purely consequential to the imposition of tolling on the Mersey Gateway Bridge and the Silver Jubilee Bridge.
- 4.2 The variation will mean that passengers crossing these bridges in either direction will be charged the outward tolling charge in addition to the normal fare.
- 4.3 The proposed variation (to be inserted in the Table of Fares) is:

“Bridge Crossing – For a passenger journey involving a crossing of the River Mersey within the Borough the toll for that crossing may be charged at the rate for the time being in force for the vehicle”

6. OPTIONS

- 6.1 The normal options available to the Committee do not apply to this report. Essentially, the Committee is being asked to be

prepared for whatever tolling regime may be imposed on the bridges.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None. The proposal is an official declaration of the consequences of tolling the bridges.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None

9. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES

9.1 Children and Young People in Halton
N/A

9.2 Employment Learning and Skills in Halton
N/A

9.3 A healthy Halton
N/A

9.4 A Safer Halton
N/A.

9.5 Halton's Urban Renewal
N/A

10. RISK ANALYSIS

10.1 N/A

11 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

11.1 None envisaged.

12. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Taxi Consultative Group File	4 th Floor Municipal Building	John Tully/ Kay Cleary