

General Licensing Committee

21 May 2025

Weymouth Tariff Increase

For Recommendation to the Portfolio Holder

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

Cllr G Taylor, Health and Housing

Local Councillor(s):

All Cllrs

Executive Director:

R Partridge, Interim Director of Public Health & Prevention

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Report Status: Public

Brief Summary: To determine the maximum level of fares that can be charged by Hackney Carriage Proprietors in the Weymouth and Portland zone for the next three years.

Recommendation:

- i. To recommend to the Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder the new tariffs for the Weymouth hackney carriage zone as set out at Appendix 3.
- ii. To recommend to the Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder that the trade consultation of the new tariffs is commenced.
- iii. To recommend to the Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder that if no trade responses are received the public consultation advertisement is proceeded with.

Reason for Recommendation: To ensure openness and transparency in the Council's decision making, and to ensure that those persons affected by changes are given the opportunity to have an input into it.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 [The Dorset Council Taxi Licensing Policy](#) creates two hackney carriage zones that operated in the Dorset Council area, one for the general area and one for the Weymouth and Portland area. The Weymouth and Portland zone remains in place to retain the restriction on the number of vehicles that can operate as hackney carriages within the town. Each zone has a different tariff set due to the different types of typical journeys that occurs in each area.
- 1.2 The [Local Government \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 1976](#) sets out the legislative provisions for setting the tariff. The process followed is for the Cabinet Member to make decisions based on the recommendations of the Licensing Committee. The steps required are; -
 - a) to agree what tariff to send out for a consultation with the trade,
 - b) to consider any comments from that consultation and decide whether to amend the tariff or re-consult
 - c) to agree to do a public consultation by way of a public notice
 - d) to consider any responses to the public consultation and decide whether the new tariff comes into effect with or without modifications

This report is to recommend step a) to the Cabinet Member for decision.

2. **New Fares**

- 2.1 The fares for Weymouth were last changed in April 2024.
- 2.2 The Weymouth Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Association have requested small rises for each of the next three years, as they believe that smaller annual increases are accepted by the travelling public better than infrequent larger ones.
- 2.3 The request with the existing tariff and the proposed new tariffs can be found at Appendix 1.
- 2.4 It has also been requested that the Licensing Authority raise the soiling charge to match that in the rest of Dorset.

3. **Financial Implications**

The funding for the consultation of the fares will come from existing budgets. The Taxi and Private Hire Licensing regime is self-funding, so any advertising costs are met from this. There are no further financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

4. **Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications**

There are no negative implications arising from the recommendations contained within this report in terms of meeting the Council's climate change obligations.

5. **Well-being and Health Implications**

There could potentially be an impact on the health and wellbeing of the public if the hackney carriage fares are set too high, which could make this form of transport inaccessible to some. The same could however be said if the fares are set too low resulting in a reduction of vehicles as they become uneconomical to run.

6. **Other Implications**

There are no other implications arising from the recommendations contained within this report in terms of impacts on other service areas within the Council.

7. **Risk Assessment**

HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

8. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

An EqIA was prepared as part of the wider Dorset Council Taxi Licensing Policy consultation.

9. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Existing and Proposed Tariff

10. **Background Papers**

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976