

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Lee Petrak, Trading Standards Licensing Manager
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	26 March 2019

## **TAXI SHARING SCHEME**

### **1.0 Purpose of the report:**

1.1 To consider proposals to vary the Blackpool Borough Council (Taxi hire at Separate Fares) Scheme 1990 (as amended).

### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

2.1 To approve the variation proposals submitted by Blackpool Licensed Taxi Operator Association (BLTOA) contained within Appendix 3(a) of the report.

2.2 Subject to approval of 2.1, to request the Trading Standards and Licensing Manager to arrange publication of the proposed variation in the Blackpool Gazette, allowing 28 days for representations to be made about the scheme and to consult the Police and Passenger Transport Authority as outlined in 5.4.

2.3 Subject to no representations being received to the consultation outlined in 2.2, to authorise the Trading Standards and Licensing Manager to implement the variation to the Blackpool Borough Council (Taxi hire at Separate Fares) Scheme 1990 (as amended).

### **3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

3.1 Blackpool Licensed Taxi Operator Association (BLTOA) put forward proposals to amend the existing scheme. These proposals are contained in the Appendix 3(a) to this report.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative option to be considered:

Reject the proposals put forward by BLTOA and remain with the existing Taxi Sharing Scheme.

#### **4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is “The Economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”

#### **5.0 Background Information**

5.1 On 9 August 1990 Blackpool Council made the Blackpool Borough Council (Taxi hire at Separate Fares) Scheme 1990 under the powers given by section 10(4) of the Transport Act 1985. This scheme permitted hackney carriages to be used for the carriage of passengers at separate fares as long as they complied with the terms of the scheme. This scheme was varied in August 1991 to include more permitted routes.

5.2 Changes to the scheme were made on 26 July 2012. The fees that are prescribed by the scheme have been in place since 2012. With rising costs the fees contained within the current scheme would not be financially viable for Hackney Carriage operators.

5.3 B.L.T.O.A has put forward proposals to amend the scheme. These proposals are contained in Appendix 3(a).

5.4 The Taxi (Schemes for Hire at Separate Fares) Regulations 1986 requires consultation with the Police and Passenger Transport Authority. The proposal must also be advertised in the newspaper allowing 28 days for representations to be made about the scheme. If no representations are received to the consultation, the Trading Standards and Licensing Manager will implement the variation. If objections are received, then the scheme will be referred back to the Sub-Committee.

5.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

#### **5.6 List of Appendices:**

Appendix 3(a) (Proposed amendment to existing scheme submitted by B.L.O.T.A)

#### **6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 Any decision taken by the Sub-Committee must have referenced the Blackpool Borough Council (Taxi hire at Separate Fares) Scheme 1990 and Transport Act 1985.

The Principal Solicitor will be available to advise.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 The only consideration are the Introduction of signage on designated taxi ranks to promote the taxi sharing scheme. These costs can be met from existing budgets.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 None