

Report to CABINET

Hackney Carriage (Taxi) Fare Increase

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Stretton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods,

Officer Contact: Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth

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Reason for Decision

To review and approve a request made by Hackney Carriage trade representatives for an increase in Hackney Carriage (taxi) fares.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet approve the request.
2. That any objections to the statutory notices issued following approval of this report are delegated to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods.

Hackney Carriage (Taxi) Fare Increase

1 Background

- 1.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows the Council to set the maximum costs and fares that drivers may charge the public for journeys taken in a taxi.
- 1.2 In setting taxi fares, the Council must balance any increase of taxi fares against the needs of the travelling public. A review of taxi fares last took place in 2012.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 Taxi fares have remained static since 2012, despite the increase in the cost of living.
- 2.2 The trade has seen an increase in costs associated with licensing, maintaining, and running a taxi over the previous 10 years, and are now requesting the Council review the fares they are permitted to charge in order to mitigate those costs.
- 2.3 The existing and proposed fares can be found at Appendix 1.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 Option 1: Approve the request
- 3.2 Option 2: Do not approve the request

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 Option 1

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Trade representatives have provided signatures from hackney carriage drivers in support of the proposed increases, and consultation has taken place with other recognised trade representatives, who are also in support. Statutory consultation will take place with the public if this report is approved via public notices in the local press. If objections are received Cabinet is asked that the objections are considered by the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 The only financial implications for the Council will be impact of the additional charges where the Council uses Hackney Carriages to facilitate service delivery. Any impacts will need to be managed within existing budgets. (James Postle)

7 Legal Services Comments

- 7.1 Under section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Council must publish a notice in a local newspaper stating the proposed new fares and give at least 14 days for any objections to be made. If there are objections, the Council must consider them before deciding whether to confirm or modify the proposed fares. If there are no objections, the new fares can be brought into force at the end of the objection period. (A. Evans)

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8. **Co-operative Agenda**
- 8.1 By increasing the fares it supports the income of taxi drivers whilst acknowledging that this will be passed on to the public. Economic growth can only happen if any increase is balanced out.
- 9 **Human Resources Comments**
- 9.1 N/A
- 10 **Risk Assessments**
- 10.1 N/A
- 11 **IT Implications**
- 11.1 None
- 12 **Property Implications**
- 12.1 None
- 13 **Procurement Implications**
- 13.1 None
- 14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**
- 14.1 None
- 15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**
- 15.1 None
- 16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**
- 16.1 No
- 17 **Key Decision**
- 17.1 No
- 18 **Key Decision Reference**
- 18.1 N/A
- 19 **Background Papers**
- 19.1 None
- 20 **Appendices**
- 20.1 Appendix 1 – Tables showing existing and proposed taxi fares

Existing Fares:

Mileage		Waiting Time	
<p><u>Tariff One</u> For journeys commencing between 6am and Midnight, if the distance does not exceed 403 yards (369 metres)</p> <p>For each 123 yards (112 metres) thereafter, or uncompleted part thereof</p>	<p>£1.60</p> <p>15p</p>	<p>For each period of 45 seconds or uncompleted part thereof</p>	<p>20p</p>
<p><u>Tariff Two</u> For journeys commencing between Midnight and 6am, if the distance does not exceed 302 yards (276 metres)</p> <p>For each 102 yards (93 metres) thereafter or uncompleted part thereof</p>	<p>£1.60</p> <p>15p</p>	<p><u>Extra Charges</u> For each pram, article of luggage carried outside the carriage</p> <p>For each additional passenger in excess of one passenger (two children under the age of 10 to be counted as one passenger)</p> <p>A charge may be requested if the user soils the vehicle.</p>	<p>No charge</p> <p>10p</p> <p>Not exceed £25</p>
<p>Bank Holidays (other than Christmas & New Year) Midnight to 6am the following day</p> <p>Christmas & New Year For hiring's between 6pm on 24th December and 7am on 27th December, and between 6pm on 31st December and 7am on 2nd January</p> <p>PLUS – between Midnight and 7am on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day</p>	<p>Tariff two</p> <p>Tariff two</p> <p>Surcharge of £2 per journey (tariff three)</p>	<p>Multi Seat Vehicles (vehicle designed to carry more than 4 passengers)</p> <p>Carrying 5 passengers</p> <p>Carrying 6 passengers</p> <p>Carrying 7-8 passengers</p>	<p>% increase in tariff</p> <p>12.5%</p> <p>25%</p> <p>50%</p>

Proposed Fares:

Mileage		Waiting Time	
<p><u>Tariff One</u> For journeys commencing between 6am and Midnight,</p>	<p>£1.70</p>	<p>For each period of 40 seconds or uncompleted part thereof</p>	<p>20p</p>

if the distance does not exceed 383 yards			
For each 117 yards thereafter, or uncompleted part thereof	20p		
<u>Tariff Two</u> For journeys commencing between Midnight and 6am, if the distance does not exceed 287 yards	£1.70	<u>Extra Charges</u> For each pram, article of luggage carried outside the carriage	No charge
For each 97 yards thereafter or uncompleted part thereof	20p	For each additional passenger in excess of one passenger (two children under the age of 10 to be counted as one passenger)	10p
		A charge may be requested if the user soils the vehicle.	Not exceed £35
Bank Holidays (other than Christmas & New Year) 10pm the night preceding to 6am the following day	Tariff two	Multi Seat Vehicles (vehicle designed to carry more than 4 passengers)	% increase in tariff
Christmas & New Year For hiring's between 6pm on 24 th December and 7am on 27 th December, and between 6pm on 31 st December and 7am on 2 nd January	Tariff two	Carrying 5 – 8 passengers	40%
PLUS – between 10pm the nights preceding and 7am on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day	Surcharge of £2.50 per journey (tariff three)		