



REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

27 JULY 2022

REPORT TITLE	REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES
REPORT OF	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for the Committee to consider whether to amend the current Hackney Carriage fare tariffs.

The Wirral Plan sets out a number of priorities for the council to consider and the contents of this report supports the priority of working for a prosperous, inclusive economy - helping businesses to thrive and creating jobs and opportunities for all.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Regulatory and General Purposes Committee is recommended to consider the proposals to amend the Hackney Carriage Tariffs and determine whether it is appropriate to approve an increase in the Hackney Carriage fare tariffs, subject to any objections being received as part of the consultation process.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 A proposal to amend the current Hackney Carriage fare tariffs has been received from Unite the Union.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Committee could determine that there should be no change to the Hackney Carriage fare tariffs or that an alternative proposal should be the subject of consultation.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The authority given to the council to set Hackney Carriage fares is set out in paragraph 5 of this report.
- 3.2 The current Hackney Carriage fares came into effect on 1 November 2018. Whilst a proposal to amend the fare tariffs was considered in 2019 and received approval in February 2020 the amendments were not implemented due to the introduction of COVID 19 restrictions. A copy of the current fare tariffs is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.3 A proposal has been submitted by Unite the Union to increase the Hackney Carriage fare tariffs as follows:
- Increase the initial hiring distance from 300 yards to 1760 yards and increase the initial hiring distance charge from £3.20 to £5.00 on tariff 1 (standard day rate)
 - Increase the initial hiring distance from 300 yards to 1392 yards on tariff 2 (standard night rate and public and bank holiday day rate) and increase the initial hiring charge from £3.60 to £5.00
 - Increase the initial hiring distance from 300 yards to 1160 yards on tariff 3 (public and bank holiday night rate) and increase the initial hiring distance charge from £3.80 to £5.00
 - Increase the initial hiring distance on tariff 4 (Christmas and New Year Day and night rate) from 300 yards to 880 yards and reduce the initial hiring charge from £6.00 to £5.00
 - Increase the “running mile” charge by reducing the yardage charged at 20p from 230 yards to 215 yards on tariff 1.
 - Increase the “running mile” charge by reducing the yardage charged at 20p from 175 yards to 172 yards on tariff 2.

- Increase the “running mile” charge by reducing the yardage charged at 20p from 165 yards to 120 yards on tariff 3.
- Increase the “running mile” charge by reducing the yardage from 230 yards to 107.5 yards and reducing the charge from 40p to 20p on tariff 4.

3.4 The current four Hackney Carriage fare tariffs are set out below:

Tariff 1	Standard Day Rate (6am to 10pm)
Tariff 2	Standard Night Rate (10pm to 6am) Public and Bank Holiday Day Rate (inc Easter Sunday)
Tariff 3	Public and Bank Holiday Night Rate (inc Easter Sunday)
Tariff 4	Christmas and New Year Day and Night Rate

Christmas is defined as the period from 18.00 hours on Christmas Eve until 06.00 hours on the day after Boxing Day.

New Year is defined as the period from 18.00 hours on New Year’s Eve until 06.00 hours on the day after New Year’s Day.

3.5 A table comparing the current fare tariffs with the proposed rates is shown at Appendix 2 to this report. A table showing the effect of the proposed increases is attached at Appendix 3 to this report. Details of the Hackney Carriage fare tariffs applicable in other neighbouring authorities can be found in Appendix 4 to this report.

3.6 Should Members approve the amendments to the current fare tariffs, the proposal must be advertised for a period of at least fourteen days. If no objections to the proposal are received, the revised tariffs could become effective in August 2022. Should the Licensing Authority receive any objections to the proposals they will be reported back to this Committee for further consideration in September 2022.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 It is estimated that the cost of the public advertisement will be approximately £100.00. This cost will be recovered from licence fees.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Section 65(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 gives the local authority power to set Hackney Carriage fares as follows:

1. A District Council may fix the rates or fares within the district as well for time as distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the arrangements for the hire of a vehicle; to be paid in respect of the hire of a hackney carriage by means of a table (hereafter in this section

referred to as a 'table of fares') made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section.

2. When a District Council make or vary a table of fares they shall publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district a notice setting out the table of fares or the variation thereof and specifying the period, which shall not be less than fourteen days from the date of first publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which objections to the table of fares or variation can be made.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 Any change to the fare tariff requires the meters in Hackney Carriage Vehicles to be re calibrated which will then be checked by Licensing Officers.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Any change to the table of fares will be published in a local newspaper which circulates in the borough. The notice will set out the table of fares or the variation and specify the period, which shall not be less than fourteen days from the date of first publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which objections to the table of fares or variation can be made.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity. The Equality Impact Assessment relevant to a proposed increase in Hackney Carriage Fares is attached via the link below:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Hackney Carriage Vehicles contribute to harmful emissions including particulate matter, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide which can be harmful to health.
- 10.2 Hybrid and electric cars emit less greenhouse gases and air pollutants than petrol and diesel cars. (*Source: European Environment Agency report 2018*)

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are none arising directly from the content of this report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Current Hackney Carriage Fare Tariffs

Appendix 2 Table comparing the current and proposed rates

Appendix 3 Table showing the effect of the proposal

Appendix 4 Details of the Hackney Carriage fare tariffs applicable in other authorities

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Letter from Unite the Union

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Licensing Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee	18 July 2018 19 September 2018 13 November 2019 22 January 2020
Cabinet	24 February 2020

HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

Within the Borough and up to 4 miles beyond the district boundary. Unless a separate fare has been agreed <u>in advance</u> for a hiring to a destination beyond 4 miles of the district boundary, the fare payable is that shown on the taximeter	
Tariff 1	Day rate: 6.00am to 10.00pm
First 300 yards or part thereof	£3.20
Each subsequent 230 yards	20p
Tariff 2	Night rate: 10.00pm to 6.00am Public and Bank Holiday day rate: 6.00am to 10.00pm (including Good Friday and Easter Sunday)
First 300 yards or part thereof	£3.60
Each subsequent 175 yards	20p
Tariff 3	Public and Bank Holiday night rate: midnight to 6.00am 10.00pm to midnight (including Good Friday and Easter Sunday)
First 300 yards or part thereof	£3.80
Each subsequent 165 yards	20p
Tariff 4	Christmas and New Year rate <i>From 6pm on 24 December until 6am on 27 December</i> <i>From 6pm on 31 December until 6am on 2 January</i>
First 300 yards or part thereof	£6.00
Each subsequent 230 yards	40p

Extra charges

For each passenger in excess of two per journey (excluding children under 5 years of age)	10p
For each animal (other than an assistance dog)	£1.00
Waiting time – for each minute or part thereof	30p
Bulky items	£5
Fouling charge (see separate notice)	£35
Tolls – for both the outward and the return journey	

Comparison of current and proposed Hackney Carriage tariffs

	Current rate	Proposed rate
TARIFF 1		
First 300 yards	£3.20	
First 1760 yards		£5.00
Each subsequent 230 yards	20p	
Each subsequent 215 yards		20p
TARIFF 2		
First 300 yards	£3.60	
First 1392 yards		£5.00
Each subsequent 175 yards	20p	
Each subsequent 172 yards		20p
TARIFF 3		
First 300 yards	£3.80	
First 1160 yards		£5.00
Each subsequent 165 yards	20p	
Each subsequent 120 yards		20p
TARIFF 4		
First 300 yards	£6.00	
First 880 yards		£5.00
Each subsequent 230 yards	20p	
Each subsequent 107.5 yards		20p

Table showing the effect of the proposal

	Distance	Fare based on current tariff	Fare based on proposed tariff	Percentage increase
Tariff 1	300 yards	£3.20	£5.00	56.3%
	1 mile	£4.60	£5.00	8.7%
	2 miles	£6.00	£6.80	13.3%
	3 miles	£7.60	£8.40	10.5%
	4 miles	£9.20	£10.00	8.7%
	5 miles	£10.60	£11.60	9.4%
	10 miles	£18.40	£19.80	7.6%
Tariff 2	300 yards	£3.60	£5.00	38.9%
	1392 yards	£5.00	£5.00	0%
	1 mile	£5.40	£5.60	3.7%
	2 miles	£7.40	£7.60	2.7%
	3 miles	£9.40	£9.60	2.1%
	4 miles	£11.40	£11.60	1.7%
	5 miles	£13.40	£13.80	3.0%
	10 miles	£23.40	£24.00	2.6%
Tariff 3	300 yards	£3.80	£5.00	31.6%
	1160 yards	£5.00	£5.00	0%
	1 mile	£5.60	£6.00	7.1%
	2 miles	£7.80	£9.00	15.4%
	3 miles	£10.00	£12.00	20.0%
	4 miles	£12.00	£14.80	23.4%
	5 miles	£14.20	£17.80	25.3%
	10 miles	£24.60	£32.40	31.7%

Tariff 4	300 yards	£6.00	£5.00	-16.7%
	880 yards	£7.20	£5.00	-30.5%
	1 mile	£8.80	£6.80	-22.7%
	2 miles	£11.60	£10.00	-13.8%
	3 miles	£14.80	£13.20	-10.8%
	4 miles	£18.00	£16.60	-7.8%
	5 miles	£20.80	£19.80	-4.8%
	10 miles	£36.40	£36.20	-0.5%