

LICENSING HEALTH AND SAFETY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**18 SEPTEMBER 2019**

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

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for the Committee to consider a proposal to increase the Hackney Carriage Tariffs.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee consider the proposals to amend the Hackney Carriage Tariffs and determine whether to recommend to Cabinet an increase in Hackney Carriage Tariffs, subject to any objections being received as part of the consultation process.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The setting of Hackney Carriage Tariffs is an executive function and therefore any decision of this Committee must be referred to Cabinet.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Not increasing the fares.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 section 65(1) gives the power to set hackney carriage fares to the local authority 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.

- 3.2 The last increase of hackney carriage fares was in November 2018.

- 3.3 A proposal has been submitted by the Unite Hackney Carriage trade representatives to increase hackney carriage tariffs with effect from 1 November 2019 by an average of 3.6% as follows:

Reducing the initial hiring distance on all tariffs by 3.6%

Reducing the yardage charged at 20p on tariffs 1, 2 and 3 by 3.6%

Reducing the yardage charged at 40p on tariff 4 by 3.6%

It should be noted that, due to the way fares are calculated, the increase at all distances will not necessarily be equal to 3.6%

- 3.4 The proposal also includes an increase in the fouling charge from £35 to £50.

- 3.5 The current four tariffs are as follows:

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.

- 3.6 A table comparing the current and proposed rates is shown at Appendix 1. A table showing the effect of the proposed increases is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.7 A table comparing the current and proposed tariffs with neighbouring local authorities is attached at Appendix 3.
- 3.8 Should the Committee approve the amendments to the current tariffs, the proposal must be advertised for a period of fourteen days. If no objections to the proposal are received, the revised tariff will be reported to the Cabinet for approval to be effective from 1 November 2019. If objections are received, they will be reported back to this Committee for consideration.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of the public advertisement will be recovered from licence fees.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Under Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the Council has the power to 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 to be paid in respect of the hire of hackney carriages as detailed in paragraph 3.1.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

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

7.0 RISKS

- 7.1 The decision of whether to increase the Hackney Carriage Fares could have an impact on what members of the public reasonably expect to pay and upon whether drivers are provided with a sufficient incentive to provide a service when it is needed.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The proposal must be advertised for a period of fourteen days.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

Yes and impact review is attached - <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2017/business>

REPORT AUTHOR: Margaret O'Donnell
Licensing Manager
telephone: (0151) 691 8606
email: margaretodonnell@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Table comparing the current and proposed rates

Appendix 2 - Table showing the effect of the proposal

Appendix 3 – Hackney Carriage Tariff comparison table

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Email proposal from Unite the Union

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Licensing Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee	27 January 2016 23 November 2016 25 January 2017 18 July 2018

Comparison of current and proposed Hackney Carriage tariffs

	Current rate	Proposed rate
TARIFF 1		
First 300 yards	£3.20	
First 289 yards		£3.20
Each subsequent 230 yards	20p	
Each subsequent 230 yards		20p
TARIFF 2		
First 300 yards	£3.60	
First 289 yards		£3.60
Each subsequent 175 yards	20p	
Each subsequent 169 yards		20p
TARIFF 3		
First 300 yards	£3.80	
First 289 yards		£3.80
Each subsequent 165 yards	20p	
Each subsequent 159 yards		20p
TARIFF 4		
First 300 yards	£6.00	
First 289 yards		£6.00
Each subsequent 230 yards	40p	
Each subsequent 222 yards		40p

Table showing effect of the proposal

	Distance	Fare based on current tariff	Fare based on proposed tariff	Percentage increase
Tariff 1	300 yards	£3.20	£3.40	6.2%
	1 mile	£4.60	£4.60	0.0%
	2 miles	£6.00	£6.20	3.2%
	3 miles	£7.60	£7.80	2.6%
	4 miles	£9.20	£9.40	2.2%
	5 miles	£10.60	£11.00	3.8%
	10 miles	£18.40	£18.80	2.2%
Tariff 2	300 yards	£3.60	£3.80	5.5%
	1 mile	£5.40	£5.40	0.0%
	2 miles	£7.40	£7.60	2.7%
	3 miles	£9.40	£9.60	2.1%
	4 miles	£11.40	£11.60	1.8%
	5 miles	£13.40	£13.80	3.0%
	10 miles	£23.40	£24.20	3.3%
Tariff 3	300 yards	£3.80	£4.00	5.3%
	1 mile	£5.60	£5.80	3.6%
	2 miles	£7.80	£8.00	2.6%
	3 miles	£10.00	£10.20	2.0%
	4 miles	£12.00	£12.40	3.3%
	5 miles	£14.20	£14.60	2.8%
	10 miles	£24.80	£25.60	3.2%
Tariff 4	300 yards	£6.00	£6.40	6.7%
	1 mile	£8.80	£8.80	0.0%
	2 miles	£11.60	£12.00	3.4%
	3 miles	£14.80	£15.20	2.6%
	4 miles	£18.00	£18.40	2.2%
	5 miles	£20.80	£21.60	3.8%
	10 miles	£36.40	£37.20	2.2%

Appendix 3

Tariff comparison table

		Wirral current	Wirral proposed	Liverpool	Sefton	St Helens	Halton	Ellesmere Port and Neston
2 miles	Tariff 1	£6.00	£6.20	£6.30	£5.10	£5.30	£5.20	£5.50
	Tariff 2	£7.40	£7.60	£7.00	£6.30	£7.00	£7.20	£6.90
	Tariff 3	£7.80	£8.00					
	Tariff 4	£11.60	£12.00	£8.40	£7.50	£8.10	£8.80	£11.00
5 miles	Tariff 1	£10.60	£11.00	£10.40	£9.90	£10.50	£10.00	£9.80
	Tariff 2	£13.40	£13.80	£13.00	£12.30	£14.20	£13.40	£12.30
	Tariff 3	£14.20	£14.60					
	Tariff 4	£20.60	£21.60	£15.60	£14.70	£15.50	£16.80	£19.60
Fouling charge		£35.00	£50.00	£40 inside, £10 outside	£40.00	£25.00	£50.00	£25.00