

REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**23 NOVEMBER 2023**

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 Fares.

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 and is not a Key Decision.

RECOMMENDATION

The Regulatory and General Purposes Committee is recommended to consider the proposal set out in this report as summarised at paragraph 3.5 of this report to amend the Hackney Carriage Fares and determine whether it is appropriate to approve the proposals subject to any objections being received as part of the consultation process.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 A proposal to amend the current Hackney Carriage Fares has been received from Unite the Union on behalf of their members who are Hackney Carriage Drivers licensed by Wirral Council. Any such proposal is delegated to this Committee for determination.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Committee could determine that there should be no change to the Hackney Carriage Fares 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 September 2022. A copy of the current fare table is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.3 The proposal to amend the Hackney Carriage Fares, submitted by Unite the Union is attached at Appendix 2 to this report.
- 3.4 The Hackney Carriage Fares are applied in four different time-bands which are referred to as 'tariffs'. The four current tariffs are set out below:

Tariff 1 Day Rate (6.00am to 9.59pm)

Tariff 2 Night Rate (10.00pm to 5.59am)
Public and Bank Holidays Day Rate (6.00am – 9.59pm)

Tariff 3 Public and Bank Holidays Night Rate (10.00pm – 5.59am)

Tariff 4 Christmas and New Year Rate

The Christmas rate is defined as the period from 6.00pm on Christmas Eve until 5.59am on 27 December.

The New Year rate is defined as the period from 6.00pm on New Year's Eve until 5.59am on 2 January.

- 3.5 The proposal to amend the Hackney Carriage Fares includes an amendment to the current tariffs, in respect of Public and Bank Holidays. The proposed tariffs are set out below:

Tariff 1 Day Rate (6.00am to 9.59pm)

Tariff 2 Night Rate (10.00pm to 5.59am)

Tariff 3 Public and Bank Holidays Rate

Tariff 4 Christmas and New Year Rate

The Christmas rate is defined as the period from 6.00pm on Christmas Eve until 5.59am on 27 December.

The New Year rate is defined as the period from 6.00pm on New Year's Eve until 5.59am on 2 January.

- 3.6 A table comparing the current Hackney Carriage Fares with the proposed fares is attached at Appendix 3 to this report.
- 3.7 Hackney Carriage Fares which apply to neighbouring Local Authorities in the Liverpool City Region, and Ellesmere Port & Neston (within Cheshire West and Chester Council) have been provided for comparison purposes and are attached at Appendix 4 to this report.
- 3.8 Should Members approve the amendments to the current Hackney Carriage Fares, the proposal must be advertised for a period of at least fourteen days. If no objections to the proposal are received, the revised fares could become effective in December 2023. Should the Licensing Authority receive any objections to the proposals they will be reported back to this Committee for further consideration in January 2024.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of the public advertisement is estimated to be £200.00 which 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 There is an impact on Licensing resources as any change to the Hackney Carriage Fares requires the meters in Hackney Carriage Vehicles to be re-calibrated which then need to be checked by Licensing Officers. This work will be carried out within existing resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

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

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Any change to Hackney Carriage Fares requires the following statutory consultation to take place. A notice 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. In addition to the statutory consultation the Licensing Authority will inform all Hackney Carriage Licence Holders of any proposed changes to the current Hackney Carriage Fares and will publish any proposals on the Council website.

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 The availability of Hackney Carriage Vehicles can serve to support the positive growth of businesses in Wirral.

REPORT AUTHOR: Andrew Bushell
Licensing Operations Manager
telephone: 0151 691 8018
email: andrewbushell@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Current Hackney Carriage Fares

Appendix 2 – Proposed Hackney Carriage Fares

Appendix 3 – Table Showing Effect of Proposal

Appendix 4 – Neighbouring Local Authorities' Hackney Carriage Fares

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Written Proposal from Unite the Union

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

Hackney Carriage Fare Tables of Neighbouring Local Authorities

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee who are delegated to determine such matters in accordance with Section 8.2 of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee's Terms of Reference set out in the constitution.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Regulatory and General Purposes Committee	27 July 2022



HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

The below table of fares is the **MAXIMUM** that can be charged within the Borough and up to 4 miles beyond the district boundary. Unless a separate fare has been **AGREED IN ADVANCE** for a hiring to a destination beyond 4 miles of the district boundary, the fare payable is that shown on the taximeter.

TARIFF 1		TARIFF 2	
DAY RATE 6.00am – 9.59pm		NIGHT RATE 10.00pm – 5.59am	
		PUBLIC & BANK HOLIDAYS 6.00am – 9.59pm	
First 300 yards (0.17 miles)	£3.60	First 1392 yards (0.79 miles)	£5.00
Each subsequent 207 yards (0.12 miles)	20p	Each subsequent 172 yards (0.10 miles)	20p
TARIFF 3			
PUBLIC and BANK HOLIDAYS		10.00pm – 5.59am	
First 1160 yards (0.66 miles)		£5.00	
Each subsequent 120 yards (0.07 miles)		20p	
TARIFF 4			
CHRISTMAS RATE	24 Dec 6.00pm – 27 Dec 5.59am		
NEW YEAR RATE	31 Dec 6.00pm – 2 Jan 5.59am		
First 880 yards (0.5 miles)		£5.00	
Each subsequent 107.5 yards (0.06 miles)		20p	

Extra Charges

Waiting time – for each minute or part thereof	30p	Carriage of bulky items	£5
Each animal (other than an assistance dogs)	£1.00	Fouling charge	£35
Each passenger in excess of two per journey (excluding children under 5 years of age)	10p	Tolls including return journey (e.g. Mersey Tunnel to/from Liverpool)	

HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

The below table of fares is the **MAXIMUM** that can be charged within the Borough and up to 4 miles beyond the district boundary. Unless a separate fare has been **AGREED IN ADVANCE** for a hiring to a destination beyond 4 miles of the district boundary, the fare payable is that shown on the taximeter.

<p style="text-align: center;">TARIFF 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DAY RATE 6.00am – 9.59pm</p> <p>First 300 yards (0.17 miles) £3.60</p> <p>Each subsequent 175 yards (0.099 miles) 20p</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TARIFF 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NIGHT RATE 10.00pm – 5.59am</p> <p>First 300 yards (0.17 miles) £3.80</p> <p>Each subsequent 165 yards (0.094 miles) 25p</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">TARIFF 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC and BANK HOLIDAY RATE</p> <p>First 300 yards (0.17 miles) £4.50</p> <p>Each subsequent 165 yards (0.094 miles) 25p</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">TARIFF 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHRISTMAS RATE 24 Dec 6.00pm – 27 Dec 5.59am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEW YEAR RATE 31 Dec 6.00pm – 2 Jan 5.59am</p> <p>First 300 yards (0.17 miles) £5.70</p> <p>Each subsequent 165 yards (0.094 miles) 40p</p>	

Extra Charges

Waiting time – for each minute or part thereof	30p	Carriage of bulky items	£5.00
Each animal (other than an assistance dogs)	£1.00	Fouling charge	£35.00
Each passenger in excess of two per journey (excluding children under 5 years of age)	10p	Journeys terminating in Liverpool	£5.00 (plus return tunnel fees)

Table Showing Effect of Proposal

	Distance	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff	Percentage Change
Tariff 1	1 mile	£5.00	£5.40	7%
	2 miles	£6.80	£7.40	8%
	3 miles	£8.40	£9.40	11%
	4 miles	£10.00	£11.40	12%
	5 miles	£11.60	£13.40	13%
	10 miles	£19.80	£23.40	15%
Tariff 2	1 mile	£5.60	£6.05	7%
	2 miles	£7.60	£8.80	14%
	3 miles	£9.60	£11.55	17%
	4 miles	£11.60	£14.05	17%
	5 miles	£13.80	£16.80	18%
	10 miles	£24.00	£30.05	20%
Tariff 3	1 mile	£6.00	£6.75	11%
	2 miles	£9.00	£9.50	5%
	3 miles	£12.00	£12.25	2%
	4 miles	£14.80	£14.75	0%
	5 miles	£17.80	£17.50	-2%
	10 miles	£32.40	£30.75	-5%
Tariff 4	1 mile	£6.80	£9.30	27%
	2 miles	£10.00	£13.70	27%
	3 miles	£13.20	£18.10	27%
	4 miles	£16.50	£22.10	25%
	5 miles	£19.80	£26.50	25%
	10 miles	£36.20	£47.70	24%

Neighbouring Local Authorities' Hackney Carriage Fares

Hackney Carriage Fares which apply to other Local Authorities in the Liverpool City Region, and also Ellesmere Port & Neston (Cheshire West and Chester Council) have been provided for comparison purposes.

The following table shows the comparative cost of using Hackney Carriage Vehicles in accordance with the proposal from Unite the Union and each of these areas.

In addition to the fare charged, each Local Authority sets their own *tariffs* which determine the days and times that each fare is charged. For the purpose of clarity details of each Local Authority's tariffs are included after the table.

Wirral Council (Proposed)

	1 Mile	2 Miles	3 Miles	4 Miles	5 Miles	10 Miles
Tariff 1	£5.40	£7.40	£9.40	£11.40	£13.40	£23.40
Tariff 2	£6.05	£8.80	£11.55	£14.05	£16.80	£30.05
Tariff 3	£6.75	£9.50	£12.25	£14.75	£17.50	£30.75
Tariff 4	£9.30	£13.70	£18.10	£22.10	£26.50	£47.70

Liverpool Council

	1 Mile	2 Miles	3 Miles	4 Miles	5 Miles	10 Miles
Day Rate	£5.00	£6.80	£8.80	£10.60	£12.40	£21.60
Night Rate	£6.25	£8.50	£11.00	£13.25	£15.50	£27.00
Peak Rate	£6.95	£9.45	£11.95	£14.45	£16.95	£29.45
Extra Rate	£7.50	£10.20	£13.20	£15.90	£18.60	£32.40

Sefton Council

	1 Mile	2 Miles	3 Miles	4 Miles	5 Miles	10 Miles
Tariff 1	£4.70	£6.70	£8.70	£10.50	£12.50	£22.30
Tariff 2	£5.85	£8.35	£10.85	£13.10	£15.60	£27.85
Tariff 3	£6.80	£9.80	£12.80	£15.50	£18.50	£33.20

St Helens Council

	1 Mile	2 Miles	3 Miles	4 Miles	5 Miles	10 Miles
Rate 1	£4.30	£6.30	£8.30	£10.30	£12.30	£22.30
Rate 2	£5.40	£8.20	£11.00	£13.80	£16.60	£30.60
Rate 3	£7.00	£10.60	£14.20	£17.80	£21.40	£39.20

Knowsley Council

	1 Mile	2 Miles	3 Miles	4 Miles	5 Miles	10 Miles
Tariff 1	£4.80	£6.60	£8.60	£10.40	£12.20	£21.40
Tariff 2	£5.35	£7.15	£9.15	£10.95	£12.75	£21.95
Tariff 3	£7.20	£9.90	£12.90	£15.60	£18.30	£32.10

Ellesmere Port & Neston (Cheshire West and Chester Council)

	1 Mile	2 Miles	3 Miles	4 Miles	5 Miles	10 Miles
Tariff 1	£4.60	£6.40	£8.00	£9.80	£11.60	£20.40
Tariff 2	£5.75	£8.00	£10.00	£12.25	£14.50	£25.50
Tariff 3	£9.20	£12.80	£16.00	£19.60	£23.20	£40.80

Wirral Council (Proposed)

Tariff 1	All journeys between 6:00am – 9:59pm
Tariff 2	All journeys between 10:00pm – 05:59am
Tariff 3	Public and Bank Holidays 00:00am – 11:59pm (all day)
Tariff 4	24 Dec 6:00pm – 27 Dec 05:59am and 31 Dec 6:00pm – 2 Jan 05:59am

Liverpool Council

Day Rate	All journeys between 6:00am – 8:59pm
Night Rate	All journeys between 9:00pm – 05:59am and at any times on Easter Sunday and all Bank Holidays (other than Christmas and New Year period)
Peak Rate	Saturday 11:00pm – Sunday 06:59am
Extra Rate	24 Dec 6:00pm – 27 Dec 05:59am and 31 Dec 6:00pm – 2 Jan 05:59am

Sefton Council

Tariff 1	All journeys between 6:00am – 10:59pm
Tariff 2	All journeys between 11:00pm – 5:59am and Fri/Sat 9:00pm – 5:59am Public Bank Holidays (other than Christmas and New Year), Easter Sunday and the Grand National Festival Rank (from 4:00pm)
Tariff 3	24 Dec 6:00pm – 27 Dec 05:59am and 31 Dec 6:00pm – 2 Jan 05:59am

St Helens Council

Rate 1	08:01am – 10:59pm
Rate 2	All journeys between 11:00pm – 08:00am and Bank Holidays except as described in Rate 3, and Easter Sunday
Rate 3	24 Dec 10:00am – 27 Dec 07:59am and 31 Dec 10:00am – 2 Jan 07:59am

Knowsley Council

Tariff 1	All journeys between 6:00am – 8:59pm
Tariff 2	All journeys between 9:00pm – 05:59am and all Public Holidays except Christmas and New Year
Tariff 3	24 Dec 6:00pm – 27 Dec 05:59am and 31 Dec 6:00pm – 2 Jan 05:59am

Ellesmere Port & Neston (Cheshire West and Chester Council)

Tariff 1	All journeys between 06:00am – 9:59pm
Tariff 2	Mon - Sun 10:00pm – 05:59am and anytime on Bank Holidays (other than Christmas and New Year)
Tariff 3	24 Dec 6:00pm – 27 Dec 05:59am and 31 Dec 6:00pm – 2 Jan 05:59am