

AGENDA

LICENSING COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 18 JANUARY 2019

1.00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, FENLAND HALL,
COUNTY ROAD, MARCH, PE15 8NQ

Committee Officer: Linda Albon
Tel: 01354 622229
e-mail: memberservices@fenland.gov.uk

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 Members to declare any personal and prejudicial interests under the Local Code of Conduct in respect of any item to be discussed at the meeting.
- 3 Additional Taxi Tariff (Pages 3 - 20)

To inform Members of a request from the taxi trade to add an additional taxi fare for licensed Hackney Carriages vehicles operating in the Fenland District Council area which are carrying more than 4 passengers

Thursday, 10 January 2019

Members: Councillor M Humphrey (Chairman), Councillor K Owen (Vice-Chairman), Councillor Mrs V Bucknor, Councillor M Buckton, Councillor S Clark, Councillor D Connor, Councillor Mrs K Mayor, Councillor A Miscandlon, Councillor D Oliver, Councillor M Tanfield and Councillor S Tierney

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Agenda Item No:	3	
Committee:	Licensing	
Date:	18 January 2019	
Report Title:	Additional Taxi Tariff	

1 Purpose / Summary

- To inform Members of a request from the taxi trade to add an additional taxi fare for licensed Hackney Carriages vehicles operating in the Fenland District Council area which are carrying more than 4 passengers

2 Key issues

- Request from the Taxi trade for an additional tariff
- Last tariff increase was the 24 April 2012.
- Local Authorities have a power to set fares for hackney carriages under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

3 Recommendations

- To approve, amend or refuse the additional tariff.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference	Not applicable
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor David Oliver, Portfolio holder with responsibilities for licensing doliver@fenland.gov.uk
Report Originator(s)	Michelle Bishop, Licensing Manager, 01354 622542, mbishop@fenland.gov.uk
Contact Officer(s)	Dan Horn, Head of Housing & Community Support, 01354 654321, dhorn@fenland.gov.uk Richard Cassidy, Corporate Director, 01354 622300, richardcassidy@fenland.gov.uk
Background Paper(s)	

Report:

1 Background / introduction

- 1.1 The fare structure currently in place was set by Members on 24 April 2012 and shows 3 tariffs set for vehicles carrying a maximum of 4 passengers. There is an Extra Charge in place on this tariff for each person in excess of 4 passengers. This equates to 0.20p per person to a maximum of 0.80p. The current tariff is at APPENDIX B.

A licensed Hackney Carriage Driver has written to the Council in an email dated 05 August 2018 outlining a proposal for an additional tariff. The proposal outlines an additional tariff for vehicles carrying more than 4 passengers. The email request is at APPENDIX A. The request stated that the consultation should only be with larger vehicle owners. The Council took legal advice and this was not accepted.

- 1.2 The request equates to a proposed increase of 50% for journeys undertaken on tariff 1, 100% increase for tariff 2 and no change to tariff 3. The proposed tariff is at APPENDIX C.
- 1.3 An initial consultation was carried out between 18 September 2018 and 21 October 2018 with our current licensed trade to gauge opinion as to whether this additional increase was required. A copy of the consultation can be found at APPENDIX D.
- 1.4 The results show that 110 persons were consulted; from these only 14 persons responded showing a low percentage of 12% and a very mixed response. From these 14 responses you can see from the table below the numbers who are in agreement, refuse, have no opinion or have requested an alternative. A copy of these responses can be found at APPENDIX E.

Persons Consulted	Responses received	Agreement	Refuse	Alternative	No Opinion
110	14	5	5	3	1

- 1.5 It is at the discretion of the Council as licensing authority to set a meter tariff for licensed hackney carriages operating within the district if it chooses to do so.
- 1.6 Councils are not obliged to set a maximum fare for their area, they could decide instead to rely on market forces to establish the going rate and at the same time promote competition. Comparisons with neighbouring authorities have taken place and are shown at APPENDIX F
- 1.7 In the past Fenland District Council has chosen to set a tariff. The Office of Fair Trading does not recommend that councils remove pricing restrictions for taxis and recognises that whilst there may be some good reason for deregulating fares, on balance, those for applying controls are stronger. It does, however, recommend that local authorities should

only set fare tariffs which represent the maximum that can be charged, and not set fixed or minimum fares.

- 1.8 The current taxi fares set by this authority are attached as APPENDIX B to this report. The last increase became effective 24 April 2012 in response to representations from Hackney Carriage proprietors and in accordance with Section 65 of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 1.9 It should be emphasised that any tariff set is the maximum any hackney carriage driver can charge. They are at liberty to charge less than the approved tariff if they choose to do so.
- 1.10 The tariff does not apply to private hire drivers who set their fares, via market forces, without Council involvement.
- 1.11 The review of taxi licensing conditions approved on 15 December 2011 saw the addition of taxi meters to be installed in all Hackney Carriage vehicles as of 1 April 2012.

2 Legal Considerations

- 2.1 The authority for the Council to fix fares for hackney carriages is given under Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. The Act states that:
 - When a Council makes or varies a table of fares (which may be by time and/or distance), it must publish in at least one local newspaper a notice setting out the table of fares, or variations to the table, specifying the period (not less than 14 days) within which, objections to the table, or variations can be made.
 - A copy of the proposed tariff must be available at the Council's offices for the public to inspect, free of charge, at all reasonable hours.
 - If there are no objections, the table, or variation, will come into effect on the expiration date of the period specified in the notice.
- 2.2 If there are objections the Council must set a further Licensing Committee date to consider the responses received. This must be within two months after the consultation end date, on which the table is to come into force with or without modification, as decided.
- 2.3 It is proposed that if there are no objections to the tariff they will be dealt with by the delegated authority to the relevant portfolio holder.

3 Financial Considerations

- 3.1 The cost of the newspaper advertisement will be accommodated from within the existing budget.
- 3.2 The cost of re-calibrating individual meters will be met by individual hackney carriage proprietors and the meters will then be checked by Licensing Officers as part of the compliance checks. This is a normal part of the work undertaken by Officers

- 3.3 The cost of the seals used to secure the individual meters once they have been calibrated will be accommodated from within the existing budget.

4 Community impact

- 4.1 Economy – supporting our local businesses
- 4.2 The District Council as the Licensing Authority has a duty to ensure that there is a safe, secure and confident ‘taxi’ service provided for the public.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Members are requested to consider the content of this report and decide whether they wish to either:
- 5.2 Agree the proposed additional tariff and authorise Officers to take the necessary steps to implement the additional hackney Carriage Fare tariff with effect from a future set date, subject to no objections to the tariff being received. Any objections which are received to be referred to a future meeting of the Licensing Committee for consideration
- 5.3 Amend the proposed additional tariff and authorise Officer’s to take the necessary steps to implement the additional hackney Carriage Fare tariff with effect from a future set date, subject to no objections to the tariff being received. Any objections which are received to be referred to a future meeting of the Licensing Committee for consideration
- 5.4 Make no changes to the existing Hackney Carriage tariff.

Email received regarding formal request for additional tariff
APPENDIX A

Dear. licensing.

Please accept this email as a formal request for a formal and proper larger vehicle tariff.

It should be noted that larger vehicles cost more to buy more to maintain and in most cases are less fuel efficient.

The present tariff only allows on extra 20p per person over 4 passengers but even that is not allowed to be applied in certain circumstances.

What I am seeking having consulted with some other larger vehicle drivers is a tariff that is as follows.

- 1 where more than 4 passengers are carried regardless of age a further 50% of the fare on tariff 1
- 2 on tariff 2 that while a standard car receives 1.5 times the standard tariff that we receive double.
- 3 on tariff 3 that an extra 25% be allowed to be charged.

Research has show that by far most councils have a tariff that gives a fare return to the driver.

The customers themselves even paying the higher tariff have still made a good saving on what he would have had to pay if larger vehicles were not available.

I trust this will be looked at, preferably fairly quickly given that from the last request to being advised that no tariff increase would take place a year had lapsed.

I also believe that as the request is re larger vehicles that consultation should be only with the operators of those larger vehicles.

Current Tariff - APPENDIX B

TABLE OF FARES FARES FOR DISTANCE (inclusive of VAT) For vehicles carrying a maximum of 8 Passengers	
Tariff 1: Between 07:00 – 23:00 hour Mon – Sat inclusive If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile) For each subsequent 160.9m (1/10 mile) or part thereof	Pence £3.30 £3.30 £0.20
Tariff 2: Between 23:00 – 07:00 hour Mon – Sat inclusive & all day Sundays If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile) For each subsequent 160.9m (1/10 mile) or part thereof	£4.90 £4.90 £0.30
Tariff 3: for Public Bank Holidays including Christmas, New Year Period If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile) For each subsequent 160.9m (1/10 mile) or part thereof	£6.60 £6.60 £0.40
Waiting Time For each period of 114.2 seconds or part thereof	£0.40
Extra Charges: For each person carried in excess of four (two children under 16 years old shall count as one person and children under the age of 3 years shall not be counted)	£0.20 (Maximum charge of £0.80)
Extra Charges: not calculated by taximeter For persons soiling the carriage resulting in cleaning of vehicle, the maximum sum of	£80.00

By Order 24 April 2012

Paul Medd, Chief Executive

Proposed Tariff - Appendix C



TABLE OF FARES FARES FOR DISTANCE (inclusive of VAT) For vehicles carrying more than 4 Passengers	Current	Proposed
Tariff 1: Between 07:00 – 23:00 Mon – Sat inclusive If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile) For each subsequent 160.9m (1/10 mile) or part thereof		£4.95 £4.95 £0.30
Tariff 2: Between 23:00 – 07:00 Mon – Sat inclusive & all day Sundays If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile) For each subsequent 160.9m (1/10 mile) or part thereof		£6.60 £6.60 £0.40
Tariff 3: for Public bank Holidays including Christmas, New Year Period If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile) For each subsequent 160.9m (1/10 mile) or part thereof		£6.60 £6.60 £0.40
Waiting Time For each period of 114.2 seconds or part thereof		£0.40
Extra Charges: not calculated by taximeter For persons soiling the carriage resulting in cleaning of vehicle, the maximum sum of		£80.00

APPENDIX D – Taxi Consultation

Licensing Team
Telephone: 01354 654321
Email: licensing@fenland.gov.uk

18 September 2018

Dear

Hackney Carriage - Additional Tariff

Representation has been received from a member of the trade requesting an additional tariff for our Hackney Carriage vehicles

The last increase was effective from 24th April 2012 and there has been no increase since. 'Private Hire & Taxi Monthly' publish national fare tables which can be found online at the following link: <http://www.phtm.co.uk/newspaper/taxi-fares-league-tables> .

Whilst the District Council has the power to set fares for all Hackney Carriage vehicles operating within the district, those best placed to decide what fares should be charged are the licence holders.

Therefore please see attached the proposed additional tariff which has been suggested, please indicate your preference on the attached page and return it to the licensing support team by **21st October 2018**. It is important to provide us with your view as the possible introduction of an additional tariff will reflect in our next steps.

Where no response is provided from Hackney Carriage Proprietors, no vote will be counted.


Note: If the majority of proprietors request an additional tariff and the Council is in agreement; meters may have to be amended at a future set date.

Yours sincerely

Interim Licensing Manager

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APPENDIX D – Taxi Consultation

<p>HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE ADDITIONAL TARIFF</p>	
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Please complete this form and return to the Licensing Support Team, Fenland Hall, County Road, March, Cambridgeshire, PE15 8NQ by 21 October 2018. Forms received after this date will not be counted.

HC Proprietors Name:		
HC Proprietors Signature:		
Date:		
<p>TABLE OF FARES</p> <p>FARES FOR DISTANCE (inclusive of VAT)</p> <p>For vehicles carrying more than 4 Passengers</p>	Current	Proposed
<p>Tariff 1: Between 07:00 – 23:00 Mon – Sat inclusive</p> <p>If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance</p> <p>If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile)</p> <p>For each subsequent 160.9m (1/10 mile) or part thereof</p>		<p>£4.95</p> <p>£4.95</p> <p>£0.30</p>
<p>Tariff 2: Between 23:00 – 07:00 Mon – Sat inclusive & all day Sundays</p> <p>If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance</p> <p>If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile)</p> <p>For each subsequent 160.9m (1/10 mile) or part thereof</p>		<p>£6.60</p> <p>£6.60</p> <p>£0.40</p>
<p>Tariff 3: for Public bank Holidays including Christmas, New Year Period</p> <p>If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance</p> <p>If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile)</p> <p>For each subsequent 160.9m (1/10 mile) or part thereof</p>		<p>£6.60</p> <p>£6.60</p> <p>£0.40</p>
<p>Waiting Time</p> <p>For each period of 114.2 seconds or part thereof</p>		<p>£0.40</p>
<p>Extra Charges: not calculated by taximeter</p> <p>For persons soiling the carriage resulting in cleaning of vehicle, the maximum sum of</p>		<p>£80.00</p>

Taxi Tariff initial consultation results - APPENDIX E

<u>Date received</u>	<u>Agree Additional tariff</u>	<u>Refuse Additional tariff</u>	<u>No or Different Opinion</u>	<u>Further comments</u>
21/09/18	AGREE			I agree with proposed tariff as the cost of running a 6 or 8 seat taxi is far in excess of running a 4 seat taxi ie less fuel consumption, more wear on brakes and tyres due to extra weight and more road tax, and servicing is much more.
24/09/18		REFUSE		Not necessary
24/09/18		REFUSE		
25/09/18		REFUSE		<p>I have responded by post today with the proposal to increase fares for Hackney vehicles of more than 4 seats. I have opposed the increase for several reasons. Mostly because it would likely deter people from getting in a large taxi on a rank, for fear of being charged more, even if only one or two passengers embark.</p> <p>Also the cost of running a larger vehicle compared to a normal car is a miniscule difference.</p> <p>Every larger taxi owner I am aware of, purchased their vehicle AFTER the meters were brought in, thus knowing what the rates are. It seems foolish to then argue the rates are too low. After all, you would be foolish to purchase a house adjacent to Heathrow airport and then complain to authorities about the noise.</p> <p>I run a large taxi and as most 6 seater work seems to be longer jobs i.e. Airports, night clubs etc. I feel the current rates are more than appropriate and sometimes have to discount. I know of no taxi firm that charges meter prices to airports. This is common practice to give fixed fares. The same can be said for jobs to Kings Lynn, Peterborough etc.</p>

				<p>People are struggling in the present climate and to increase fares would seem insensitive and greedy on our behalf.</p> <p>I would gladly attend any meeting and speak to this end, on behalf of yourselves if you required.</p> <p>Hope this helps</p>
26/09/18			ALTERNATIVE	Bank holiday - rate 2, Christmas & Boxing day rate 3, New Year's Eve rate 3 from 18:00 - 23:59
27/09/18		REFUSE		No change
27/09/18			ALTERNATIVE	Proposed that Tariff 1 should be £3.50, £3.50, £0.50 and that Tariff 2 should be £4.90, £4.90, £0.30
01/10/18	AGREE			I support the new proposed fares and I am in support for an increase.
25/10/18			ALTERNATIVE	He made a point about using the higher rate on the evening of Christmas Eve as they have a lot of problem with drunk customers etc., he knows it is not a bank holiday but felt that due to the nature of the evening it should be included in a consultation?
02/10/18			NO OPINION	No comments made either way.
02/10/18		REFUSE		If you up the fares for 6 seater taxis you will kill off people getting in our taxis. It's hard enough to get people to use taxis at the moment putting up prices would kill it off for us.
03/10/18	AGREE			I am in favour of new larger vehicle tariff
03/10/18	AGREE			I am in favour of the above proposed large vehicle tariff
04/10/18	AGREE			

Appendix F – Other comparable tariffs

Council	Current Tariff (not bank holiday and normal hours)	Additional charge for more than 4 passengers	Separate tariff for more than 4 passengers	
FDC current	£3.30 for first mile	0.20 p for every passenger over 4 to a maximum of 0.80 p for the whole trip. N.b... 2 children under 16 shall count as 1 person and children under 3 shall not be counted	No	
FDC proposed for over 4 persons	£4.95 for first mile	No	Yes	
Huntingdonshire	£4.10 for first mile	No	No	
East Cambs	£4.00 for first mile	0.25 p for each passenger in excess of 1 over the age of 18	No	
Peterborough	£3.30 for first mile	No	No	

NB – see full tariffs below for each Council.

Taxi Fares

Fares for distance (inclusive of VAT)

Maximum fares

Tariff 1	£
If the distance does not exceed 234.6666 yards (214.58 metres)	2.70
For each subsequent 234.6666 yards (214.58 metres) or uncompleted part thereof	0.20
Flag fall at 1760 yards (1609.34 metres)	4.10
For each subsequent 234.6666 yards (214.58 metres)	0.20
Waiting Time	

For each period of 27 seconds or uncompleted part thereof	0.10
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Tariff 2	£
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For hires started between 11.30pm and 7.30am and any hires started on any Bank Holiday or Sunday	2.70
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If distance does not exceed 160 yards (146.3 metres)	0.20
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For each subsequent 176 yards (160.93 metres) or uncompleted part thereof	0.20
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Flag fall at 1760 yards (1609.34 metres)	4.70
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For each subsequent 176 yards (160.93 metres) or uncompleted part thereof	0.20
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Waiting Time	
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For each period of 27 seconds or uncompleted part thereof	0.10
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Extra Charges

For persons soiling the taxi

50.00



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

East Cambridgeshire District Council resolved on 12 September 2018 for the following table of maximum fares to come into force immediately.

Fares are calculated on a combination of distance or time of parts thereof. The meter must only be switched on when you enter the vehicle. Please be aware that all journeys within the East Cambridgeshire boundary must be charged on the meter. Journeys ending outside the district boundary must also be charged by the meter unless you pre-agree a fare with the driver before the journey commences.

Rate	First mile (1760 yards / 1609 metres)	For each 167.6 yards (153 metres) or uncompleted part thereof	Waiting time per minute
Rate 1 (7am to 11pm Monday to Saturday) (excl. Bank Holidays)	£4.00	£0.20	£0.40
Rate 2 (11pm to 7am Monday to Saturday)(excl. Bank Holidays)	£5.50	£0.20	£0.40
Rate 3 (7am Sunday to 7am Monday) (excl. Bank Holidays)	£4.50	£0.20	£0.40
Rate 4 (All Bank Holidays from midnight to 7am the following day)	£7.00	£0.30	£0.40

Each passenger in excess of one (persons under the age of 18, and person(s) accompanying a passenger who requires assistance due to their physical or mental condition shall not be counted)	£0.25 per person, per trip
Soiling charge	Not to exceed to £150

City of Peterborough
HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES
(INCLUSIVE OF VAT)

FOR DISTANCE AND TIME

**AT ALL TIMES
BOTH DAY AND NIGHT**

FOR THE FIRST MILE OR PART THEREOF **£3.30P**

FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT MILE **£1.70p**

XMAS AND NEW YEAR

1800Hrs DEC 24th TO 0600Hrs DEC 27th AND 1800Hrs DEC 31st to 0600 HRS JAN 2nd

FOR THE FIRST MILE OR PART THEREOF **£4.00P**

FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT MILE **£2.00p**

WAITING TIME

AT ALL TIMES

BOTH DAY AND NIGHT

£12.00 PER HOUR

THIS VEHICLE LICENCE
NUMBER IS:-

**HACKNEY
CARRIAGE**

A FEE OF £25 IS PAYABLE FOR PERSONS SOILING THIS VEHICLE.

COMPLAINTS

THE PASSENGER SHOULD CONTACT THE LICENSING OFFICER,
PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL, (TEL: 01733 747474) ON ANY MATTER CONCERNING THE FARE OR ANY OTHER ASPECT OF THE
JOURNEY AFTER HAVING FIRST OBTAINED A RECEIPT FROM THE DRIVER STATING NAME AND BADGE NUMBER.

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