


Agenda Item No:	5	
Committee:	Licensing	
Date:	20 April 2022	
Report Title:	Proposed increase to current Hackney Carriage Vehicle Table of Fares	

Cover sheet:

1 Purpose / Summary

- 1.1 To adopt the proposed increase of the Hackney Carriage vehicle table of fares.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 The last table of fares increase was 2019.
- 2.2 There were two requests from the Taxi trade for an increase to the tariff rate Option A and Option B
- 2.3 On 28 January 2022 the Licensing Committee Chair and Portfolio Holder considered the requests and authorised the Licensing Team to carry out a formal consultation.
- 2.4 Formal consultation was carried out and ended on 1st April 2022. The Consultation was advertised in the Local Newspaper on 3rd March 2022 and a copy of the consultation was placed on the Council's website.
- 2.5 Fenland District Council has 134 Licensed Drivers of which 93 are Hackney Carriage drivers.
- 2.6 The Licensing Team have received 30 responses which represents a 22.38% response from the trade to the proposed options for Tariff increases with 13 voting for Option A, 15 for Option B and 2 votes for no increase – a redacted copy of the responses is attached as **Appendix A**.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 The Licensing Committee to approve an option for a taxi fare increase. This will then be referred to Council for ratification and implementation.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference	
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Andrew Lynn, Portfolio holder with responsibilities for licensing alynn@fenland.gov.uk

Report Originator(s)	Andy Fox - Senior Licensing & Compliance Officer, 01354 602162, afox@fenland.gov.uk
Contact Officer(s)	Amy Brown, Head of Legal, 01354 654321 Dan Horn, Acting Assistant Director, 01354 654321, dhorn@fenland.gov.uk
Background Papers	Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 Part Two

Report:

1 BACKGROUND AND INTENDED OUTCOMES

- 1.1 The Council has responsibility under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, for setting the maximum fares that can be charged by hackney carriage vehicles licensed to operate within the district.
- 1.2 Hackney Carriage ("Taxi") fares are made up of an initial hiring charge and a "mileage" rate, both of which are expressed in terms of distance and/or time per unit cost. This is because when a hired taxi is stationary or moving slowly in traffic the meter continues charging, but by time, instead of distance.
- 1.3 The table of fares applies only to Hackney Carriage vehicles. Private Hire Operators are able to agree their hiring charges in advance with their customers at the time of booking the journey.
- 1.4 The current table of fares which was approved by Council on 27 June 2019 attached at **Appendix B**.
- 1.5 In January 2022 officers received written correspondence from two representatives of the Fenland Taxi Trade, in which requests were put forward for the Council to consider increasing the current table of fares.
- 1.6 Both Options A & B requests are shown below alongside a list of the current fees and charges:

TABLE OF FARES			
FARES FOR DISTANCE (inclusive of VAT)			
For vehicles carrying no more than 8 Passengers	Current	Proposed – Option A	Proposed- Option B

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	Pence £3.30 £3.30 £0.20	£4.00 £4.00 £0.20 For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof	Pence £3.70 £3.70 £0.25
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	£4.90 £4.90 £0.30	£6.00 £6.00 £0.30 For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof	No Change
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	Tariff 3 to come into force from 18:00 Hrs Christmas eve and New Years Eve £8.00 £8.00 £0.40 For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof	No Change
Waiting Time For each period of 114.2 seconds or part thereof	£0.40	No Change	No Change
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)	£0.30 (Maximum charge of £1.20)	£0.50 (Maximum charge of £2.00)	No Change
Extra Charges: not calculated by taximeter For persons soiling the carriage resulting in cleaning of vehicle, the maximum sum of	£80.00	No Change	No Change

- 1.7 The Private Hire and Taxi Monthly (PHTM), a national taxi trade publication, produces a monthly league table of all UK Council hackney carriage fares. This league table shows that Fenland District Council's current "fare tariff 1", for a 2-mile journey, sits in 305th place out of 358 licencing authorities listed.
- 1.8 When drawing comparisons between hackney carriage fares in different areas, the normal method used is to compare the cost of a 2-mile journey. Officers have researched and produced a table showing a comparison of the hackney carriage fares charged in other local authority areas for a 2-mile journey, which can be seen below:

Local Authority	2-mile fare - £	Last Increase	Ranked out of 358
Cambridge City	6.6	2019	71
South Cambs	6.6	2019	85
Huntingdonshire	6.5	2019	91
South Holland	6.3	2019	131
East Cambs	6.2	2018	141
Kings Lynn and WN	6	2019	185
Breckland	5.6	2015	261
Fenland DC	5.3	2019	305
Peterborough	6	2022	188

Using the table above and depending on which option is chosen, the below highlights where we would sit in the comparison table and neighbouring authority:

	2 mile - £	Rank
Current Fare	5.3	305
Option - A	6	203
Option - B	6.3	131
Nat Average	6.08	166
Peterborough	6	188

- 1.9 The AA Fuel Price Report shown below, shows the average cost of fuel in the East Anglian region in January 2019 when the existing tariff took effect and at present in March 2022:

Year	Unleaded (pence per litre)	Diesel (pence per litre)
2019	119.4	121.9
2022 (Pre-Conflict)	147.8	151.7
% Increase	+23.9%	+24.4%
Today's price	160.9	176.9

- 1.10 The cost of fuel is only one factor that Members should consider when determining whether it is appropriate to vary the table of fares. Also, of relevance will be other general increases in the cost of living for hackney carriage proprietors.
- 1.11 According to the data compiled by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 5.5% in the 12 months to January 2022, up from 5.4% in December 2021. Inflation is widely expected to climb above 7% later this year, partly driven by the unprecedented increase in energy prices.
- 1.12 According to the Bank of England's "Inflation Calculator" goods and services that cost £100 in 2017 would have cost £111.94 in 2021, this represents an average increase of nearly 2.9% per year.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Committee are asked to consider the information within this report, including the two options that have been set out, for the Council to vary and increase the current Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff.
- 2.2 When considering what is an appropriate amount to increase the current hackney carriage fare tariff by, information has been provided within this report to support the Committee in making an informed decision having regard to the taxi trade and that of paying customers.
- 2.3 Members are asked to consider either **Option A, Option B or a tariff set by the committee** - Considering the information in this report and the needs of both the Taxi trade and members of the public

3 CONSULTATION

Consultation has taken place in accordance with the regulations

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 This report presents two options for members to consider

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Legal Implications

- 5.2 Section 65 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that 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 hackney carriages 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.

- 5.3 Section 65(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 goes onto state:
- a) 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 the first publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which objections to the table of fares or variation can be made.
 - b) A copy of the notice referred to in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall for the period of fourteen days from the date of the first publication thereof be deposited at the offices of the council which published the notice, and shall at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment. A copy of the Newspaper advert is attached as **Appendix C**.
- 5.4 If no objection to a table of fares or variation is duly made within the period specified in the notice referred to in section 65 (2), or if all objections so made are withdrawn, the table of fares or variation shall come into operation on the date of the expiration of the period specified in the notice or the date of withdrawal of the objection or, if more than one, of the last objection, whichever date is the later.
- 5.5 If objections are made and are not withdrawn, the district council must set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date, on which the table of fares shall come into force with or without modifications as decided by them after consideration of the objections.
- 5.6 **Financial Implications**
- 5.7 The costs of carrying out the required statutory consultation on the proposed variations and implementation of the Taxi tariff increase would be met by existing budgets held by Fenland District Council Licensing.
- 5.8 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
- 5.9 **Equality Implications**
- 5.10 The Licensing Committee will ensure it has regard to the desirability of exercising its functions with regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and to increase equality of opportunity.

6.0 Social, Environmental and Economic Implications

- 6.1 This report has set out two options for Member's consideration and has acknowledged the increased costs that the taxi trade has faced in the last twelve months in particular on the back of the COVID-19 Pandemic which devastated the demand for taxis, particularly during periods of lockdown. Any decision to increase taxi fares therefore would have a positive impact on the taxi trade, primarily economically.
- 6.2 In addition, the report has identified the balance that is required to be struck by supporting our taxi trade and not exposing users of taxis to such an increase in fares, that would lead to journeys becoming too expensive, thus having social implications linked to a lack of social mobility, and economic implications by additional money having to be spent on transport.
- 6.3 Members should note that the tariff is the maximum permitted fare that can be charged, and that vehicle proprietors can choose to charge less should they wish. The tariff is only applicable to Hackney Carriages, and not Private Hire Vehicles.

7 SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE

APPENDIX A – Redacted copy of consultation responses
APPENDIX B – Current Table of fares
APPENDIX C – Newspaper advert

Date received	No Change to Current Tariff:	In favour with Option A:	Against Option A:	In favour with Option B:	Against Option B:	Additional Comments
18.02.2022		X				
20.02.2022		X				Thank you for your email I will resubmit another one. However I do agree with the first one I think having an increase from 6 pm would help get drivers to do the shift
24.02.2022		X				I have no problem with these increases although I would like to see waiting time more than what it is
02.03.2022		X				
04.03.2022		X				
10.03.2022				X		
11.03.2022				X		
12.03.2022				X		
13.03.2022		X				I agree with tariff change A Reason being, increass in costs over the last few years I.E. fuel, servicing, tyre's, council fees (again) Also tariff has not changed for many years
14.03.2022				X		
14.03.2022			X	X		
14.03.2022			X	X		
14.03.2022				X		
14.03.2022			X	X		
14.03.2022			X	X		
17.03.2022		X				I believe with fuel and council costs increasing there is a definate need for an increase.
17.03.2022		XX				
22.03.2022		X				I would suggest that the change should be a combination of option A and option B. Start at £4.00 and subsequent being £0.25
24.03.2022		X				
28.03.2022				X		
28.03.2022				X		
28.03.2022		X		X		I'm for all your proposals long overdue
28.03.2022	X					In today climate I am against increasing the fare for taxis.
28.03.2022						Afternoon as I am unable to select which option I think would be best for our trade I'm in favour of option B I think it's fair as there hasn't bin a rise for a number of years. Ins over a 1000 a year now fuel nearly doubled since last fare increase as has general cost of running a vehicle
28.03.2022		X				
28.03.2022				X		I think it would be better in the light of fuel prices to have a £4.00 start and then 25 pence per 1/11 of a mile .
29.03.2022				X		
31.03.2022		X				If the fuel remains high then option A must be considered.
01.04.2022						With the rising cost of living an current fuel prices, there needs to be a rise also the fact the trade has not had a rise in numerous years why is it always left so long then looks like it goes up a lot. Tarrif 2 should also go up in line with option B
01.04.2022	X					In Favour of all

Current Tariff - APPENDIX A

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 27 June 2019

Paul Medd, Chief Executive

30 484833

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Hygiene Quality Forklifts Ltd of Unit 6, Wheel Head Farm, Turf Fen Lane, Doddington PE15 0TB is applying for licence to use Unit 6, Wheel Head Farm, Turf Fen Lane, Doddington PE15 0TB as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 1 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office

EDNA MAY SHIPP (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 13 New Road, Chatteris Cambs, PE16 8BJ, who died on 29/01/2022, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 03/05/2022, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Co-op Legal Services Limited,
Aztec 650, Aztec West Almondsbury,
Bristol, BS32 4SD
(Ref:EROD / 6061483P / Shipp)

Fenland District Council

HACKNEY CARRIAGE TABLE OF FARES
For licensed vehicles fitted with a 'Taximeter'

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, Fenland District Council proposes to revise the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares, as follows:

TABLE OF FARES FARES FOR DISTANCE (inclusive of VAT) For vehicles carrying no more than 8 Passengers	Current	Proposed Option A	Proposed Option B
Tariff 1: Between 07:00 – 23:00 Mon – Sat inclusive	Pence		
If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance	£3.30	£4.00	£3.70
If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile)	£3.30	£4.00	£3.70
For each subsequent 160.9m (1/10 mile) or part thereof	£0.20	£0.20	25p
		For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof	
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	£4.90	£6.00	
If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile)	£4.90	£6.00	No Change
For each subsequent 160.9m (1/10 mile) or part thereof	£0.30	£0.30	
		For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof	
Tariff 3: for Public bank Holidays including Christmas, New Year Period			
If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance	£6.60		
If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile)	£6.60	£8.00	No Change
For each subsequent 160.9m (1/10 mile) or part thereof	£0.40	£0.40	
		For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof	
Waiting Time			
For each period of 114.2 seconds or part thereof	£0.40	No Change	No Change
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)	£0.30 (Maximum charge of £1.20)	£0.50 (Maximum charge of £2.00)	No Change
Extra Charges: not calculated by taximeter			
For persons soiling the carriage resulting in cleaning of vehicle, the maximum sum of	£80.00	No Change	No Change

Any comments/objections regarding the above can be emailed to licensing@fenland.gov.uk. These must be received by 1st April 2022 to be considered as part of the consultation response.



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