


Agenda Item No:	12	
Committee:	Council	
Date:	12 May 2022	
Report Title:	PROPOSED INCREASE TO CURRENT HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE TABLE OF FARES	

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 the 27th June 2019.
- 2.2** Local Authorities have a power to set fares for hackney carriages under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 2.3** Two requests from the Taxi trade for an increase to the Table of Fares were received by email in January 2022, shown as Option A & Option B, these can be seen at **APPENDIX A**.
- 2.4** On the 28th January 2022, the Licensing Committee Chair and Portfolio Holder considered the requests and authorised the Licensing Team to carry out a formal consultation.
- 2.5** Formal consultation was undertaken and ended on 1st April 2022.
- 2.6** The Council received 30 responses to the proposed changes to the taxi tariff as outlined in the Table of Fares
- 2.7** On the 20th April 2022, Licensing Committee met to review and consider the responses received to the proposed increase in the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares. All information relating to the request and the Committee discussion can be found at [Agenda for Licensing Committee on Wednesday, 20th April, 2022, 10.00 am - Fenland District Council](#)
- 2.8** During this meeting, Licensing Committee's view was that the proposed increase of Option A should be recommended to and implemented by Full Council. A copy of this can be found at **APPENDIX B**
- 2.9** However, to be clear the Taxi trade can charge less than this amount if they would like to do so as the proposed charges are discretionary.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1** For Council to approve the proposed Table of Fares set out in **Appendix B**, as recommended by the Licensing Committee.

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)	Dan Horn, Head of Housing & Community Support, 01354 654321, dhorn@fenland.gov.uk Michelle Bishop, Licensing Manager, 01354 602542, mbishop@fenland.gov.uk Amy Brown, Head of Legal, 01354 654321 abrown@fenland.gov.uk
Background Paper(s)	Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 Part Two

Report:

1 Background and Intended Outcomes

- 1.1 The Council has 134 Licensed Drivers; 93 of these are Hackney Carriage Drivers.
- 1.2 The fare structure currently in place was set by Licensing Committee on 27th June 2019 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 0.30p per person to a maximum of £1.20.

The current tariff is at **APPENDIX C**

- 1.3 On 20th April 2022 Licensing Committee determined that Option A was the most appropriate of the two proposals presented. A copy of the proposed tariff comprised in Option A can be found at **APPENDIX B**.

All information relating to the request and the Committee discussion can be found at [Agenda for Licensing Committee on Wednesday, 20th April, 2022, 10.00 am - Fenland District Council](#)

- 1.4 The Licensing Team 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 D**
- 1.5 It is at the discretion of the Council as the Licensing Authority to set a Table of Fares for licensed Hackney Carriages operating within the district if it chooses to do so.
- 1.6 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 licensing authorities listed. This is for the current tariff.

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

- 1.7 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 below.
- 1.8 The tariff does not apply to private hire drivers who set their own fares, via market forces, without Council involvement.

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.

3 Equality Implications

- 3.1 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.

4 Social, Environmental and Economic Implications

- 4.1 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.

- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 That Council approve the increase in the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares.

6 Schedules

- 6.1 Appendix A - Options A & B
Appendix B - Proposed New Tariff
Appendix C - Current Tariff
Appendix D - Redacted Responses

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
<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>Pence</p> <p>£3.30</p> <p>£3.30</p> <p>£0.20</p>	<p>£4.00</p> <p>£4.00</p> <p>£0.20 For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof</p>	<p>£3.70</p> <p>£3.70</p> <p>25p</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>£4.90</p> <p>£4.90</p> <p>£0.30</p>	<p>£6.00</p> <p>£6.00</p> <p>£0.30 For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof</p>	<p>No Change</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>Tariff 3 to come into force from 18:00 Hrs Christmas eve and New Years Eve</p> <p>£8.00</p> <p>£8.00</p> <p>£0.40 For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof</p>	<p>No Change</p>
<p>Waiting Time</p> <p>For each period of 114.2 seconds or part thereof</p>	<p>£0.40</p>	<p>No Change</p>	<p>No Change</p>
<p>Extra Charges:</p> <p>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)</p>	<p>£0.30</p> <p>(Maximum charge of £1.20)</p>	<p>£0.50</p> <p>(Maximum charge of £2.00)</p>	<p>No Change</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>	<p>No Change</p>	<p>No Change</p>

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Waiting Time For each period of 114.2 seconds or part thereof	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)	£0.50 (Maximum charge of £2.00)
Extra Charges: not calculated by taximeter For persons soiling the carriage resulting in cleaning of vehicle, the maximum sum of	No Change

Current Tariff - APPENDIX C

TABLE OF FARES FARES FOR DISTANCE (inclusive of VAT) For vehicles carrying a maximum of 8 Passengers	
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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

APPENDIX D

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, increases 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 definite 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 In today climate I am against increasing the fare for taxis.
28.03.2022	X					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				X		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