



Licensing

Committee

Thu 28 Apr
2022
7.00 pm

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Redditch

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

*making
a
difference*

www.redditchbc.gov.uk

**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
Pauline Ross
Democratic Services Officer**

**Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH
Tel: 01527 881406**

e.mail: p.ross@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

GUIDANCE ON PUBLIC SPEAKING

At the current time, seating at the meeting will be placed in such a way as to achieve as much space as possible for social distancing to help protect meeting participants.

Please note that this is a public meeting and is open to the public to attend.

If you have any questions regarding the agenda or attached papers, please do not hesitate to contact the officer named above.

GUIDANCE FOR ELECTED MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS IN PERSON

Members and Officers who still have access to lateral flow tests (LFTs) are encouraged to take a test on the day of the meeting. Meeting attendees who do not have access to LFTs are encouraged not to attend the meeting if they have common cold symptoms or any of the following common symptoms of Covid-19 on the day of the meeting: a high temperature, a new and continuous cough or a loss of smell and / or taste.

Whilst the Council acknowledges that it is no longer a legal requirement to wear face coverings, we would really appreciate if the Members and Officers who attend a meeting in person would consider wearing a face covering throughout the meeting unless they are exempt or speaking.

The meeting venue will be fully ventilated, and Members and officers may need to consider wearing appropriate clothing in order to remain comfortable during proceedings.

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

Members of the public will be able to access the meeting if they wish to do so. Seating will be placed in such a way as to achieve as much space as possible for social distancing to help protect meeting participants.

Whilst the Council acknowledges that it is no longer a legal requirement to wear face coverings, it would be really appreciated if members of the public who attend the meeting in person would consider wearing a face covering throughout the meeting unless they are exempt.

It should be noted that members of the public who choose to attend in person do so at their own risk. Members of the public who still have access to lateral flow tests (LFTs) are encouraged to take a test on the day of the meeting. Meeting attendees who do not have access to LFTs are encouraged not to attend if they have symptoms of a common cold or any of the following common symptoms of Covid-19 on the day of the meeting; a high temperature, a new and continuous cough or a loss of smell and / or taste.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The usual process for public speaking at Committee meetings will continue to be followed subject to some adjustments which allow written statements to be read out on behalf of residents and the virtual participation of residents at meetings of the Committee.

The total maximum time permitted for public speaking is 15 minutes and the time limit for individual speakers is 3 minutes.

Only those members of the public who have registered to speak in advance of the meeting will be permitted to do so.

To register to speak you must contact Democratic Services by phone on 01527 881406, or by email at democratic@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk before 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

When registering to speak you must give your name and contact telephone number and indicate which agenda item you wish to speak about, and whether you are in support of or opposed to the officer recommendation

Notes:

Although this is a public meeting, there are circumstances when Council might have to move into closed session to consider exempt or confidential information. For agenda items that are exempt, the public are excluded.

Licensing COMMITTEE

Thursday, 28th April, 2022

7.00 pm

Council Chamber Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:	Salman Akbar (Chair)	Michael Chalk
	Lucy Harrison (Vice-Chair)	Aled Evans
	Karen Ashley	Andrew Fry
	Tom Baker-Price	Julian Grubb
	Joanne Beecham	Ann Isherwood

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

To invite Councillors to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and / or Other Disclosable Interests they may have in items on the agenda, and to confirm the nature of those interests.

3. Public Speaking

4. Consideration of objection to variation of Table of Fares for Hackney Carriages (Pages 1 - 10)

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REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**LICENSING
COMMITTEE****28th April 2022****HACKNEY CARRIAGE TABLE OF FARES – REQUEST FOR VARIATION
CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTION RECEIVED**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor N Nazir
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Simon Wilkes – Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

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.

On 21st March 2022 the Licensing Committee approved the advertisement of a proposed variation to the existing table of fares. Members are now asked to consider an objection received in respect of the proposed varied table of fares.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Licensing Committee considers the objection received to the proposed table of fares and RESOLVE to bring into force the varied table of fares shown at Appendix 1 (with or without modifications) with effect from 7th May 2022.

3. KEY ISSUES**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The costs of advertising the proposed variations to the table of fares for hackney carriages was met from existing budgets held by Worcestershire Regulatory Services.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**LICENSING
COMMITTEE****28th April 2022****Legal Implications**

- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 Section 65(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 goes on to 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**LICENSING
COMMITTEE****28th April 2022**

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 The table of fares applies only to hackney carriage vehicles. Private hire operators are free to agree their hiring charges in advance with their customers, normally at the time of booking the journey.
- 3.9 On 21st March 2022, the Licensing Committee approved the advertisement of a proposed variation to the existing table of fares for hackney carriages. The proposed varied table of fares approved for advertisement is shown at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.10 An objection to the proposed table of fares has been received from a member of the public. The individual concerned has objected on the basis that they believe the Council's table of fares should only display metric units (metres and kilometres).
- 3.11 The individual concerned raises no objection in respect of the variations being proposed to the maximum cost of journeys undertaken in hackney carriages, only to the table of fares including reference to imperial units of measurement (yards and miles). A copy of the objection received can be seen at **Appendix 2**.
- 3.12 The proposed varied table of fares shows distances expressed in both metric (metres) and imperial units of measurement (yards and miles). This is also true of the current table of fares that was approved for implementation by the Licensing Committee in November 2018.
- 3.13 Officers believe that the current format of the table of fares is compliant with current legislation and is clear and understandable for passengers and licence holders. It is also believed to be consistent with the vast majority of fare tables that are published by other local authorities across England and Wales.

**LICENSING
COMMITTEE**

28th April 2022

- 3.14 Members are asked to consider the objection received to the proposed table of fares and resolve to bring the revised table of fares at **Appendix 1** into force (with or without modifications) on 7th May 2022.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 None

5. APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Proposed Varied Table of Fares
Appendix 2 – Objection received

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Dave Etheridge – Principal Officer (Licensing)
Worcestershire Regulatory Services

E Mail: dave.etheridge@worcsregservices.gov.uk

Tel: (01905) 822799

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL
TABLE OF FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES
PROPOSED



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

	Tariff One	Tariff Two	Tariff Three
For the first 880 yards (804.7 metres approx.) or part thereof	£4.00	£5.25	£7.20
For each subsequent 176 yards (160.9 metres approx.)	£0.15	£0.15	£0.30
Equivalent to:	£1.50 per mile (1609.3 metres approx.)	£1.50 per mile (1609.3 metres approx.)	£3.00 per mile (1609.3 metres approx.)
Waiting time – for each 30 seconds	£0.10	£0.10	£0.20
Extra Charges			
For each dog (except guide dogs)	£1.50		
For each passenger in excess of 6	£0.50		
Explanation of Tariffs Applicable			
Tariff One	6am – Midnight		
Tariff Two	Midnight – 6am and on Designated Public Holidays		
Tariff Three	Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day		
<p>Note if the vehicle or seating is so soiled by any passenger or animal as to require cleaning, the proprietor may make a charge. This must be made clear to the passenger at the end of the journey there will be a maximum charge of £75.00.</p>			

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30 March 2022

Licensing and Support Services Manager
Redditch Borough Council
C/o Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way,
Kidderminster,
DY11 7WF

Dear Sir,

Re: **Variation of the table of fares for Hackney Carriages -**
Public Notice on page 40 in the Redditch Advertiser 30 March 2022.

I'm writing to object to the table of fares shown.

In previous years I've written objecting to the use of yards and miles.

[Some previous correspondence is attached]

This is NOT a Brexit issue. I've explained previously the legislation about the use of imperial units (miles, and yards) only applies to Highway traffic signage. And if you didn't know the DfT Highways Manual uses only metric units – and also the countdown markers at an exit from a motorway are spaced at 100 metre intervals.

The taxi tariffs should ONLY be in metric units, (metres and kilometres).
A colleague described the advertised table as a 'dog's breakfast type of document'!

Earlier I referred to the taxi tariff for Oxford City which is much easier to understand. However, it's obvious that the values are just conversions, for example:
53.6 metres = 1/3 mile; 1608 metres = 1 mile; 6432 metres = 4 miles.

Surely RBC officers are capable of producing a simple table showing equivalent fares, *for example*:

Cost (£) **per km**,

Cost (£) **per 250 m**,

plus, other suitable values like 5 km.

And please make the values sensible integers – no conversions producing decimal places!

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Philip Bladon

~~COPY~~
24 August 2018

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Agenda Item 4

30 Mar 2022



Licensing and Support Services Manager
Redditch Borough Council
C/o Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way,
Kidderminster,
Worcestershire
DY11 7WF

Dear Sir,

Re: Variation of the table of fares for Hackney Carriages
– Public Notice in the Redditch Advertiser 22 August 2018.

I lodge an objection, and urge the Council to use metric units.
Replace the yards with metres, and re-calculate the 'per mile' to the equivalent
'per kilometre'.

I know the tariffs for Oxford City and Worcester City are in metric.
The table for Oxford is much clearer to understand than Worcester's.
Here are the links:

https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20087/taxi_licensing/77/hackney_carriage_fare_chart
and
<https://www.worcester.gov.uk/vehicle-licensing>

[A print out of these is enclosed]

I raised this matter in 2011 and received correspondence from Mrs Garratt.
I pointed out her error in my letter dated 18 March 2011. This is also enclosed.

Finally metrication has nothing to do with Brexit, and the EU, it is the International
System of Measurement.

**I sincerely hope Redditch Borough Council will adopt a taxi fare table that
shows only metric units, like for example, Oxford or Broxbourne.**

Yours faithfully,



Philip Bladon

Copy: Councillor Gareth Prosser (Portfolio holder which includes WRS)

18 March 2011

30 Mar 2022

Attention: Mrs S Garratt

Licensing Section
(Worcestershire Regulatory Services)
Redditch Borough Council
Town Hall
Walter Stranz Square
Redditch B98 8AH

Dear Mrs Garratt,

Proposed Fare Tariffs - Your letter dated 11 March 2011

With reference to your last sentence it fails to answer my concerns.

In your letter you say 'all local authorities advertise and display their current tariff in miles and yards', this is wrong. I provide you with the following examples to illustrate local authorities where correct units are published:

- Broxbourne Council
http://www.broxbourne.gov.uk/transport_and_streets/taxis_and_private_hire/taxi_hire.aspx
- Oxford City Council
<http://www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decB/TaxiFares.htm>

Your reference to the 'new EU Directive' (March 2009) is not relevant. The relevant law is the UK's Units of Measurement Regulations 1986 as amended. These Regulations repeat the wording of the Directive - that is, "road traffic signs, distance and speed measurement." The exemption clearly only applies to distances and speed measurements on road traffic signs (otherwise the regulations would have just said "distances and speed measurements" without qualification). Since taxi meters are not "road traffic signs", they are not covered by the exemption, and the law therefore requires that distances should be expressed in metres and kilometres.

By looking at the information provided by Broxbourne Council and Oxford City Council you will see the fares are charged using metric units.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,


Philip Bladon

(Pro for Mrs Garratt's letter)

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REPLY dated 11 March **FROM Mrs S Garratt**

Proposed Fare Tariffs Notice published in the
Redditch Advertiser 23 February 2011

Thank you for your letter dated 3 March 2011.

Units of measurement, as you have pointed out, are subject to European law in order to ensure consistency of measurement across member states and to ensure that the use of different units does not create a barrier to trade or restrict the free movement of goods and services across the European Community.

Originally, it was intended that the use of all imperial measures would be phased out but the United Kingdom negotiated exemptions for certain measures; these included the mile, yard, foot and inch for road traffic signs, distance and speed measurement.

In March 2009 a new EU Directive came into force to reflect the intention and to allow exemptions and supplementary indications to continue indefinitely.

I can confirm that nationally all local authorities advertise and display their current tariff in miles and yards - simply because the taxi tariff on the meter held within a Hackney Carriage displays the same. It would also be confusing to the passenger for the driver to display the price he has to pay in metric style, when road signage is in miles and yards.

I trust this letter answers your queries.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Garratt
Senior Practitioner (Licensing)
Worcestershire Regulatory Services

On behalf of Redditch Borough Council