

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**LICENSING
COMMITTEE**

Date 17th January 2011

HACKNEY CARRIAGE - FARE TARIFF

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Juliet Brunner
Relevant Head of Service	Steve Jordan – Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Non Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The Committee is asked whether or not to recommend a variation of the fares for the hiring of Hackney Carriages within the Borough. Any variations will need to be advertised and an opportunity given for objections to be made. Any objections duly made must be considered.

The Committee can recommend no increase to the Hackney Carriage Tariff for the year 2011-2012 as proposed by Officer's, an increase of 6% as shown in the report or it can recommend its own proposals if it wishes. However, any proposed variation to the Council's approved policy would have to be subject to the approval of the full Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that

EITHER

- 1) **there be no increase in the Hackney Carriage fare rates for the year 2011 to 2012;**

OR

- 2) **there be an increase in the Hackney Carriage fare rates in line with the current Retail Price Index as detailed in paragraph 5.1 of the report and advertised as required under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.**

and, if approved, that

EITHER:

- a) **authority be delegated to the Head of Environment, in consultation with the Chair of the Licensing Committee:**
- (i) **to consider any objections received, following public advertisement; and**

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**LICENSING
COMMITTEE**

Date 17th January 2011

- (ii) to modify the fare rates or confirm the fare rates unmodified, as appropriate; and
- (iii) to set a date when the fare rates shall come into operation in line with the statutory requirements as set out in paragraph 3.4 and 3.5.

OR

- b) any objections received following public advertisement be reported back to the Committee for consideration.

OR

- c) if no objections are received following public advertisement, the increase to take effect from the end of the consultation period.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The former Public and Entertainment Services Committee at its meeting on 21st September 1999, requested Officer's to present annual review reports showing the Hackney Carriage tariff increased in line with the retail price index.
- 3.2 This policy was amended on 1st November 2006 by the Executive Committee when members resolved that the Retail Price Index and other inflation indices be considered when setting new tariff rates.
- 3.3 This policy was again put before the Executive Committee on 22nd November 2008 when members resolved that petroleum products indices should be taken into consideration as a separate index.
- 3.4 The last fare increase was approved in September 2008 and took effect from 12th January 2009. The current rates are shown below.

Mileage

- | | |
|--|---|
| First half mile or uncompleted parts thereof | - £2.62p |
| Subsequent charge | - 10p per 135 yards
or £1.31p per mile |
| Waiting time | - 10p per 40 secs.
Or 15 per minute |

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date 17th January 2011

Each person exceeding one - 10p

Late Night and Bank Holiday Surcharge

Midnight to 6.00am every day and all
Bank Holidays (excluding Good Friday) - £1.25p per journey

From 6.00pm Christmas Eve to Midnight
Boxing Day - Double Tariff

From 6.00pm New Years Eve to 6.00am
New Years Day - Double Tariff

Dogs (with the exception of guide dogs) - £1.35p

Any persons fouling the vehicle will be charged an excess of £75 per
journey.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 At its meeting on 22nd October 2008 the Executive Committee recommended that Officer's take account of petroleum products as well as other retail price indices and the Retail Price Index as resolved by previous Committees when preparing future reports.

4.2 The BIS (Department for Business Innovation and Skills) government website which shows retail indices; states that Petroleum products have increased in cost in real terms by 14.% since December 2009 and therefore petroleum indices have been taken into account for the Hackney Carriage Tariff for the year 2011 to 2012.

4.3 The average of the indices below represents a fair reflection of inflation in the year to November 2010 and rises to the nearest penny would produce the following amendments to the Hackney Carriage Fare table.

Consumer Price Index	4.7%
All Items RPI excluding interest payments	3.3%
Average Earnings (whole economy)	2.3%
Petroleum Products Index (Petrol)	14.0%

Average of above indices (including petroleum)	6.2%
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Effects to fare table:

Mileage

First half mile or uncompleted parts thereof - £2.78p

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date 17th January 2011

Subsequent charge	10p per 128 yards - or £1.38p per mile
Waiting time	10p per 40 secs. - Or 15 per minute
Each person exceeding one	- 10p

Late Night and Bank Holiday Surcharge

Midnight to 6.00am every day and all Bank Holidays (excluding Good Friday)	- £1.25p per journey
From 6.00pm Christmas Eve to Midnight	
Boxing Day	- Double Tariff
From 6.00pm New Years Eve to 6.00am	
New Years Day	- Double Tariff
Dogs (with the exception of guide dogs)	- £1.35p
Any persons fouling the vehicle will be charged an excess of £75 per journey.	

- 4.4 Consultation with the Redditch Taxi Association has taken place, they recognise that the inflation indices show a 6% increase, however, they are extremely concerned that any increase to the Hackney Carriage Tariff would not be tolerated by the public in the current economic climate and their businesses would decline in real terms as a result.
- 4.5 The Taxi Association have requested and are in agreement that the tariff is not increased this year and that this should be balanced with no increase in licence fees.
- 4.6 Within the Private Hire monthly magazine fares are now listed on a regional basis. Based on the most current figures we have the current regional average for a 2 mile journey is £4.96p. The Hackney Carriage Tariff for Redditch District falls slightly below this average at £4.85p.
- 4.7 Redditch compares favourably to other authorities in the area being cheaper than our immediate neighbours Bromsgrove, Stratford, Worcester and Warwick but slightly more expensive than Wyre Forest.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 If the proposed changes at recommendation 2 are agreed, it will be necessary for the increase to be advertised in a local newspaper, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date 17th January 2011

Provisions) Act 1976. The cost of such advertisement can be met by the existing licensing advertising budget.

- 5.2 Hackney Carriage proprietors then choose whether their meters are updated to this higher tariff at a cost of approximately £30.00 per vehicle.
- 5.3 These fares do not affect the Council's budget in that they are fares paid by the travelling public to taxi drivers for taxi rides and are calculated by the taximeters installed in the taxis.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Under Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Council has the power to fix rates or fares within the district for the hire of hackney carriages. The rates or fares can relate to time as well as distance and can cover all other charges in connection with the hire of a hackney carriage.
- 6.2 Section 65 of the Act also requires the Council to publish a notice of the tables informing the public of the proposed changes and specifying the period within which objections may be made to the proposed fare increases. The period for objections can be no less than 14 days from the date of the first publication.
- 6.3 If no objections are made during this period the new fares will come into operation on the date of expiration of the specified period.
- 6.4 If objections are made and are not withdrawn, the Council has two months from the end of the period for objections to be made, to consider those objections and set a date for the table of fares, with or without modification, to come into force.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The former Public and Entertainment Services Committee at its meeting on 21st September 1999, requested Officers to present annual review report showing tariffs increased in line with the retail price index.

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

This item links with the Council Priority – Safe

9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

**LICENSING
COMMITTEE**

Date 17th January 2011

None

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

Any rise in the Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff will impact on the elderly/disabled or vulnerable groups of people who use taxis as their main mode of transport.

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

None

12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

None

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

None

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

None

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

None

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

None

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

None

18. LESSONS LEARNT

It is noted by Licensing Officer's that the majority of Hackney Carriage Proprietors do not increase the charges set on their meters on a yearly basis. They wait until the increase is substantial over a period of years. The legislation states that a meter can show less than the agreed tariff

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date 17th January 2011

(licensee choice); but no more than the agreed tariff and increasing the tariff by a few pence would not be cost effective to the drivers due to the £30.00 calibration charge.

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Any rise in the Hackney Carriage Tariff will need to be advertised and the period for objections must be no less than two weeks from the first advertisement. Any objections must be duly considered.

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	No
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	No
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	Yes
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	Yes

21. WARDS AFFECTED

All wards are affected by this report.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**LICENSING
COMMITTEE**

Date 17th January 2011

22. APPENDICES

None

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Private Hire Monthly
Hackney Carriage Tariff Rate Card
Executive Committee Report of November 2008

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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