

**REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE TABLE OF FARES**

|                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Relevant Portfolio Holder                                                                                | Cllr Monica Stringfellow                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted                                                                               | No                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Relevant Head of Service                                                                                 | Simon Wilkes – Director of<br>Worcestershire Regulatory Services                                                                                                                           |
| Report Author                                                                                            | Job Title: Principal Licensing Officer -<br>Contact email:<br><a href="mailto:Hazel.Powell@worcsregservices.gov.uk">Hazel.Powell@worcsregservices.gov.uk</a><br>Contact Tel: 01562 738 054 |
| Wards Affected                                                                                           | All Wards                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Ward Councillor(s) consulted                                                                             | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Non-Key Decision                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting. |                                                                                                                                                                                            |

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 That the Licensing Committee note the contents of the report.**

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 The Licensing Committee last reviewed and revised the table of fares in June 2025. The current table of fares can be seen at **Appendix 1**. This table of fares was approved by the Licensing Committee at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and took effect on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025.
- 2.5 In November 2018, Members of the Licensing Committee expressed the view that the table of fares would be reviewed annually to avoid any

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situation where a large increase is requested following several years without a review taking place.

**3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

- 3.1 It is now approaching a year since the table of fares was last revised, therefore officers have prepared this report in order to provide Members with an opportunity to undertake an annual review.
- 3.2 Prior to commencing the preparation of this report, the Chairman of Redditch Taxi Association was approached by officers to see if the Association would like to request any amendments to the current table of fares.
- 3.3 The Chairman of Redditch Taxi Association has advised that members of the Association do not wish to request any further increase in the table of fares at the present time. Association members hold concerns that the rise in the cost of living in recent years continues to have an impact on the number of people in Redditch using hackney carriages and they do not want this situation to be exacerbated by the charging of higher fares.
- 3.4 A table is provided at **Appendix 2** that shows the average price per litre of ultra-low sulphur unleaded petrol and ultra-low sulphur diesel (according to data from the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero) at the following points in time:
- When the existing table of fares took effect (1<sup>st</sup> June 2025)
  - When this report was prepared (3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026)
- 3.5 This data shows that petrol and diesel prices have continued to fall marginally over the past year and are now 0.3% (petrol) and 1.8% (diesel) lower than when the existing table of fares took effect in June 2025.
- 3.6 Whilst the price of petrol and diesel may have fallen over the last year, other prices have continued to rise.
- 3.7 According to the latest data available from the Office of National Statistics when this report was produced, the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rate of inflation in the 12 months to December 2025 was 3.4%.
- 3.8 The CPI rate of inflation when the current table of fares took effect in June 2025 was only marginally higher running at 3.6%.

- 3.9 In consideration of the latest fuel price data, the current rate of inflation and the views expressed by the Redditch Taxi Association, officers recommend that no changes are made to the table of fares at this time.
- 3.10 Members are therefore asked to note that this matter has been reviewed and that no further action is required at the present time. A further review will be scheduled to take place in March 2027 at the earliest.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

**5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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 be for the period of fourteen days from the date of the first publication thereof be deposited at the offices of the council which
  - c) published the notice and shall at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment.
- 5.3 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

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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.

- 5.4 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.

### **6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Relevant Strategic Purpose**

- 6.1 The setting of Hackney Carriage fares at an appropriate level supports local businesses and those employed within the taxi trade. By maintaining a resilient transport network, we also support resident's movement across the borough which includes journeys relating to employment and to access leisure and other amenities. This clearly supports local businesses and the Council's Economy and priorities.

#### **Climate Change Implications**

- 6.2 No implications.

#### **Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.3 Section 149 (7) of the Equality Act 2010 defines the relevant protected characteristics as age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 6.4 Officers having assessed the above and conclude that the matters and recommendations raised in this report do not adversely impact or unlawfully discriminate against any protected characteristics therefore a full equality Impact Assessment will not be required.

### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 None identified.

### **8. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Current Table of Fares

Appendix 2 – Road Fuel Prices Data Comparisons

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**9. REPORT SIGN OFF**

| <b>Department</b>                                          | <b>Name and Job Title</b>                                                                                  | <b>Date</b>                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Portfolio Holder                                           | Please record the name of the relevant Portfolio Holder who has signed off the report here.                | Please give the date they signed off the report here. |
| Lead Director / Head of Service                            | Please record the name of the relevant lead Director / Head of Service who has signed off the report here. | Please give the date they signed off the report here. |
| Financial Services                                         | Not applicable                                                                                             | Not applicable                                        |
| Legal Services                                             | Please record the name of the relevant Officer in Legal Services who has signed off the report here.       | Please give the date they signed off the report here. |
| Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)             | Not applicable                                                                                             | Not applicable                                        |
| Climate Change Team (if climate change implications apply) | Not applicable                                                                                             | Not applicable                                        |