

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Committeenamedm

4 JUNE 2026

HACKNEY CARRIAGE TABLE OF FARES – REQUEST FOR VARIATION

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr M. Dormer
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Simon Wilkes – Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Report Author	Job Title: Hazel Powell Principal Licensing Officer Contact email: Hazel.Powell@worcsregservices.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01562 738 054
Wards Affected	Wards
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	No
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	None
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to RESOLVE:

- a) **The proposed table of taxi fares as set out in Appendix 3 be advertised as a public notice and objections from the public invited in accordance with the requirements of section 65, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976.**
- b) **If no objections are received from the public within 14 days of publication of the notice that the proposed tariff will come into effect on 6th July 2026.**
- c) **If objections are received in the stated time, that the matter will be considered further at the next meeting of the Licensing Committee, and a decision made as to whether the variations to the table of fares should be made.**

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.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Committeename

4 JUNE 2026

- 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 current table of fares was approved by the Licensing Committee and took effect on 1st June 2025, this is given as **Appendix 1** and are reviewed annually by the Licensing Committee

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 3.1 In accordance with the annual review of the table of fares, in February 2026 the Chair of the Redditch Taxi Association was approached and asked whether the Association would seek to vary the current fares for the next 12-month period. At that time, the Taxi Association confirmed that no review of the fares was required.
- 3.2 The views of the Taxi Association in February were reported back to the Licensing Committee on 9th March 2026. The Licensing Committee accepted the views of the Taxi Association but, in light of the conflict in the middle east causing instability in the economy and fluctuating fuel prices, the Committee requested that the matter remain under review.
- 3.3 The Chair of the Taxi Association was contacted again by officers on 5th May 2026 and a written request was received from the Redditch Taxi Association to have the table of fares reviewed. The Taxi Association cited the following reasons for a review –
- Both petrol and diesel prices have increased and have remained high since early March
 - Cost of living increases
 - Trade competition arising from licensed vehicles operating within the Redditch area but licensed by other licensing authorities.
- 3.4 The Redditch Taxi Association have proposed increasing the ‘hiring charge’ on all three tariffs by £0.20p. There is no proposal to change the existing tariff for any distance travelled otherwise known as the “mileage” charge rate, which is expressed in terms of distance and/or time per unit cost.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Committeename dm

4 JUNE 2026

- 3.5 Making these amendments would increase the cost of a 2-mile journey in a Hackney Carriage licensed by the Council on tariff one from £6.65 to £6.85, an increase of 3.0%.
- 3.6 Tariff Compassions - The Private Hire Monthly trade publication publishes a table each month to show a comparison of Hackney Carriage fares across the country for a 2-mile journey. A 2-mile journey is used as a yard stick, as this is reportedly the average length of a typical journey in a Hackney Carriage. A table showing a comparison of the Hackney Carriage fares charged in other local districts for a 2-mile journey can be seen at **Appendix 2**.
- 3.7 The government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero lists the following fuel price data –

Date	Petrol – Pump Price (p/litre)	Petrol – Difference on previous week (p/litre)	Diesel – Pump Price (p/litre)	Diesel - Difference on previous week (p/litre)
23/02/2026	131.71	0.1	141.46	0.0
02/03/2026	132.14	0.4	142.15	0.7
09/03/2026	135.67	3.5	149.01	6.9
16/03/2026	140.28	4.6	158.78	9.8
23/03/2026	144.16	3.9	166.88	8.1
30/03/2026	148.78	4.6	176.52	9.6
06/04/2026	154.65	5.9	186.75	10.2
13/04/2026	158.17	3.5	192.14	5.4
20/04/2026	157.62	-0.5	191.24	-0.9
27/04/2026	156.99	-0.6	189.81	-1.4
04/05/2026	156.82	-0.2	188.79	-1.0
11/05/2026	156.81	-0.2	188.14	-1.0
18/05/2026	157.39	-0.2	186.56	-1.0

- 3.8 Using the table given at 3.7, when comparing fuel prices on 23 February 2026 with fuel prices on 18 May 2026 there is a 17.8% increase in petrol pump prices and a 27.5% increase in diesel pump prices. The table also shows that since 20th April there have been only marginal decreases in fuel prices.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Committeename

4 JUNE 2026

- 2.10 According to the data compiled by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 3.3% in the 12 months to March 2026, which are the latest figures released.
- 2.11 According to the Bank of England's "Inflation Calculator" goods and services that cost £100 in March 2025 cost £103.43 in March 2026, an increase of 3.4%.
- 2.12 Legislation requires that any changes to the table of fares are published as a public notice and objections invited. If no objections are received the fares come into force on the named date. If there are objections, then the Council must consider them and re-set the fares with or without variations.
- 2.13 Members are asked to consider the request received by Redditch Taxi Association and to direct officers to undertake the legal processes required to advertise the proposed tariff shown at **Appendix 3**.
- 2.14 Should no objections be received in response to the newspaper notice, the approved changes can take effect from 6th July 2026.
- 2.15 Alternatively, if objections are received, then a report will be prepared for consideration at the next Licensing Committee and a decision made as to whether the variations to the table of fares should be made.

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:

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Committeename

4 JUNE 2026

- 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.
- 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 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 If the Council's Hackney Carriage fare tariff is set too low this may adversely affect the supply and availability of taxis in the area. Whilst setting the fare too high may have a negative impact on the vulnerable users of this essential service, who may simply seek alternative transport options, such as using Redditch private hire transport providers or those from neighbouring local authorities.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Appendix 1 – Current Table of Fares
- Appendix 2 – Comparison of Fares for a Two-mile Journey
- Appendix 3 – Proposed Table of Fares

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Committeenameadm

4 JUNE 2026

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
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	Please record the name of the relevant Officer in Financial Services who has signed off the report here.	Please give the date they signed off the report here.
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)	If applicable, please record the name of the relevant Officer in the Policy team who has signed off the report here.	If applicable, please give the date they signed off the report here.
Climate Change Team (if climate change implications apply)	If applicable, please record the name of the relevant Officer in the Climate Change team who has signed off the report here.	If applicable, please give the date they signed off the report here.