

Report

Cabinet Member Regulatory Functions

Part 1

Date: 21 December 2015

Subject Revision of Hackney Carriage Table of Fares

Purpose For the Cabinet to consider and approve the proposal to change the Council's Hackney Carriage Table of Fares.

Author Principal Licensing Officer

Ward City Wide

Summary The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides that in respect of charges for Hackney Carriages, "the Council may fix the rates or fares within the district..." The Council last determined the Table of Fares in October 2010 and a submission has been received from some members of the Hackney Carriage trade for the Council to increase, and amend, the existing tariff. The report lays out this proposal and also officer's recommendations for increase. Following the requisite statutory consultation period, the report now asks the Cabinet Member to consider the revised tariff tables and agree them.

Proposal That the Cabinet Member agrees the proposed the Council's Hackney Carriage Table of Fares as set out in Appendix C.

Action by Head of Law and Regulation

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Head of Finance
- Head of People and Business Change
- Head of Law and Regulation
- Public Protection Manager
- Licensing Committee

Signed

Background

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides that in respect of the charges for Hackney Carriages, the 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... by means of a table.*”

1.0 Taxi Fares Policy

- 1.1 Licensing Authorities have the power to set Hackney Carriage fares for journeys within their area and the majority, including Newport City Council, do so. There is no power to set Private Hire fees. Fare scales should be designed with a view to practicality. The DfT sees it as good practice to review the fare scales at frequent intervals, including any graduation of the fare scale by time of day or day of the week. The DfT also suggests that in reviewing fares, Authorities should pay particular regard to the needs of the travelling public, with reference both to what it is reasonable to expect people to pay, but also to the need to give taxi drivers sufficient incentive to provide a service when it is needed. There may well be a case for allowing higher fares to be changed at, for example, later at night and early morning.
- 1.2 The Council will set Hackney Carriages fares but these fares will be set at the maximum fare that drivers or operators can charge. Drivers or operators who wish to charge less than the Council Tariff may do so. The Fare Tariff will be reviewed to make sure it meets with both the needs of the travelling public and of the Trade in providing a service to the public.
- 1.3 Although the Council is not permitted to set fares for Private Hire Vehicles, Private Hire vehicles drivers wishing to have taxi meters in the vehicle, will be required to run under the operator’s tariff. The vehicle will also be required to display the Operator’s Tariff on a tariff card in a prominent position within the vehicle.

2.0 Revising the Tariff

- 2.1 The Council reviewed the existing Table of Fares back in October 2010. No changes have been made to the Table of Fares since that time and it therefore seems reasonable that the Council should now consider an increase. The current Table of Fares is attached as **Appendix A** to this report and consists of three parts: “Travel”; “Waiting Time” and “Extra Charges”.
- 2.2 A meeting took place between the Principal Licensing Officer and the Hackney Carriage Association on the 19th August 2015 to discuss the Hackney Carriage Tariff increase. At this meeting the Hackney Carriage Association proposed their recommendations for a fare increase, as did the Principal Licensing Officer. The recommendations can be found in **Appendix B** of the report. It was felt by both parties that a compromise between the two recommendations could be reached. Accordingly, the proposed joint recommendation by the Principal Licensing Officer and the Hackney Carriage trade can also be found in **Appendix C**. It is this recommendation that both parties wish to go out for formal consultation. Currently, the National and Welsh Average Fare for a 2 mile fare at Tariff 1 (“Daytime fare”) is £5.67 and £ 5.16 respectively. The proposed Principal Licensing Officer & Hackney Carriage Association recommendation would mean a 2 mile Tariff 1 fare would be £5.40.

Details of neighbouring authorities’ Hackney Carriage Fares can be found in **Appendix D**.

- 2.3 The recommendations were considered by the Licensing Committee on 3 November 2015 and the Committee agreed that the revised tariff as set out in Table C should go out for public consultation.

3.0 Consultation

- 3.1 Any proposals by the Council to amend the tariff must be in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Act, including the publication of a notice in a local newspaper, and the subsequent consideration of any objections, which must be received within the specified time period. This

consultation period may not be less than 14 days. The actual consultation for the proposed changes to the Tariff actually ran from 9th November and ended on 1 December 2015.

A statutory notice was placed in a local newspaper (the South Wales Argus) and displayed at the Information Station, as required by law, outlining the proposed changes and the manner in which objections can be made.

In addition, a newsletter featuring the amendment to the tariff was sent to all Private Hire Operators and hand delivered to the Hackney Carriage trade at the local ranks. The Hackney Carriage Association kindly displayed the notices on the Hackney Carriage ranks both at Railway Station and Upper Dock Street.

3.2 There were no objections, or in indeed any comments.

Financial Summary

There are no financial implications contained in this report other than the fee to advertise the proposed tariff in the local newspaper.

Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
Setting the fees too high/low	Low	Low	Meetings took place between the trade and officers to produce a reasonable tariff. A formal consultation was undertaken to gain views. The Cabinet Member can only set maximum fees: the trade, if they wish, may charge less.	Public Protection Manager

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

This proposal is in line with the council taxi licensing policies and guidelines alongside statutory legislation that governs Hackney Carriage vehicles, in particular Section 5.7 of Newport City Council's Licensing Policy in respect of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers, Vehicles and Operators. This is covered in paragraph 2 to this report- above.

Options Available

The Cabinet Member may decide:

1. To agree the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares in accordance with the Officers' & Hackney Carriage Association's recommendation- Appendix C
2. Not to agree the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares in accordance with the Officers' & Hackney Carriage Association's recommendation- Appendix C
3. To amend the existing Hackney Carriage Table of Fares in any other way.

Preferred Option and Why

The preferred option is 1 above. To agree the Table of Fares in accordance with the Officers' and Hackney Carriage Association's recommendation at Appendix C. The fares have not increased since 2010, whilst the running cost of running a Hackney Carriage has increased over the last five years.

Officers have received no adverse comments pursuant to the statutory consultation.

The proposed revised tariff in Appendix C has been published in accordance with the legislation and as no objections have been received, then the Cabinet Member may agree the new tariff to come in with immediate effect.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no direct costs implications to the council, arising from this report. There is no impact on council budgets as any increase in fares goes directly to the taxi firms, not the council.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

The proposed action is in accordance with the Council's discretionary powers to fix hackney carriage fares under Section 65 the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. The existing tariffs have not been revised for a number of years and are, therefore, in need of review. The Cabinet Member must have regard to the requests for fare increases submitted by the Hackney Carriage Drivers' Association but must also have regard to any representations received during the period of statutory consultation. None were received. The DfT Guidance advises that, in setting the fares, the Committee should balance the needs of passengers and what they should reasonably be required to pay with the commercial needs of the trade. The Guidance also suggests that a differential tariff could be considered to reflect different periods of the day. The proposed revised tariff in Appendix C has been published in accordance with the legislation and as no objections have been received, then the Cabinet Member may agree the new tariff to have immediate effect.

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

The report details proposals to increase the Hackney Carriage tariffs and therefore there are no staffing implications. The report details the consultation arrangements for the proposals in line with the relevant legislation.

Comments of Cabinet Member

The Cabinet Member has approved the report.

Appendices

- Appendix A Current Hackney Carriage Tariff
- Appendix B Principal Licensing Officer's Tariff Recommendation
- Appendix C Hackney Carriage Association & Principal Licensing Officer's mediated Tariff Recommendation
- Appendix D Neighbouring Authorities' Hackney Carriage Tariff

Background Papers

Newport City Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire "Taxi" licensing Policy.
Licensing Committee report on the amended tariff 3/11/15 and minutes.

Dated: 21 December 2015

Appendix A

Current Hackney Carriage Tariff

Newport City Council HACKNEY CARRIAGE RATES TRAVEL CHARGES from 15 October 2010

Tariff 1 (T1 - For hiring's commenced between 05:00 and 00:00)

If the distance does not exceed 1200 yards for the whole of the distance £3.00

If the distance exceeds 1200 yards:

- For the first 1200 yards £3.00
- For each subsequent 112 yards or uncompleted part thereof 10p

Tariff 2 (T2 – For hiring's commenced between 00:00 and 05:00)

If the distance does not exceed 1200 yards for the whole of the distance £4.00

If the distance exceeds 1200 yards:

- For the first 1200 yards £4.00
- For each subsequent 112 yards or uncompleted part thereof 10p

Tariff 3 (T3 – For hirings commenced on Bank Holidays)

If the distance does not exceed 1200 yards for the whole of the distance £4.00

If the distance exceeds 1200 yards:

- For the first 1200 yards £4.00
- For each subsequent 112 yards or uncompleted part thereof 10p

Tariff 4 (T4)

For hirings commenced between 00:00 on 25 December Twice and 06:00 on 27 December, and between Midnight on 31 Tariff 1 December and 06:00 on 2 January)

WAITING TIME

For each period of 30 seconds or uncompleted part thereof 10p

EXTRA CHARGES

- For each passenger in excess of four £1 per passenger a maximum charge of £3.00
- For each animal carried (except for assistance dogs) £1.00
- Soiling charge Amount Not exceeding £50

Tariff 1	Calculated Fee	Displayed On Meter
Cost for 1 Mile	£3.50	£3.50
Cost for 2 Miles	£5.07	£5.00
Cost for 3 Miles	£6.64	£6.60
Cost for 4 Miles	£8.21	£8.20
Cost for 5 Miles	£9.79	£9.70

Appendix B

Principal Licensing Officer's Tariff Recommendation

Tariff 1 (T1 - For hirings commenced between 06:00 and 00:00)

If the distance does not exceed 1000 yards for the whole of the distance £3.00

If the distance exceeds 1000 yards:

- For the first 1000 yards £3.00
- For each subsequent 108 yards or uncompleted part thereof 10p

Tariff 2 (T2 – For hirings commenced between 00:01 and 05:59)

If the distance does not exceed 1000 yards for the whole of the distance £4.00

If the distance exceeds 1000 yards:

- For the first 1000 yards £4.00
- For each subsequent 108 yards or uncompleted part thereof 10p

Tariff 3 (T3 – For hirings commenced on Bank Holidays)

If the distance does not exceed 1000 yards for the whole of the distance £4.00

If the distance exceeds 1000 yards:

- For the first 1000 yards £4.00
- For each subsequent 108 yards or uncompleted part thereof 10p

Tariff 4 (T4)

For hirings commenced between 21:00 on 24 December and 06:00 on 27 December, and between Midnight on 31 December and 6:00 on 2 January

Twice tariff 1

WAITING TIME

- Waiting time per minute 0.25p

EXTRA CHARGES

- For each passenger in excess of four £1 per passenger a maximum charge of £3
- For each animal carried (except for assistance dogs) £1
- Soiling charge Amount Not exceeding £6
- Luggage no charge

Tariff 1	Calculated Fee	Displayed On Meter
Cost for 1 Mile	£3.70	£3.70
Cost for 2 Miles	£5.33	£5.50
Cost for 3 Miles	£6.96	£6.90
Cost for 4 Miles	£8.59	£8.50
Cost for 5 Miles	£10.22	£10.20

Hackney Carriage Association Tariff Recommendation

Tariff 1 (T1 - For hirings commenced between 06:00 and 00:00)

If the distance does not exceed 600 yards for the whole of the distance £3.00

If the distance exceeds 600 yards:

- For the first 600 yards £3.00
- For each subsequent 106 yards or uncompleted part thereof 10p

Tariff 2 (T2 – For hirings commenced between 00:01 and 05:59)

If the distance does not exceed 600 yards for the whole of the distance £4.00

If the distance exceeds 600 yards:

- For the first 600 yards £4.00
- For each subsequent 106 yards or uncompleted part thereof 10p

Tariff 3 (T3 – For hirings commenced on Bank Holidays)

If the distance does not exceed 600 yards for the whole of the distance £5.00

If the distance exceeds 600 yards:

- For the first 600 yards £5.00
- For each subsequent 106 yards or uncompleted part thereof 10p

Tariff 4 (T4)

For hirings commenced between 20:00 on 24 December and 06:00 on 27 December, and between Midnight on 31 December and 6:00 on 2 January

Twice tariff 1

WAITING TIME

Waiting time per minute 0.30p

EXTRA CHARGES

- For each passenger in excess of three £1 per passenger
- For each animal carried (except for assistance dogs) £1
- Soiling charge Amount Not exceeding £50
- Luggage max of £2

Tariff 1	Calculated Cost	Displayed On Meter
Cost for 1 Mile	£4:09	£4:00
Cost for 2 Miles	£5.75	£5.70
Cost for 3 Miles	£7.42	£7:40
Cost for 4 Miles	£9:08	£9:00
Cost for 5 Miles	£10.74	£10.70

Appendix C

Hackney Carriage Association & Principal Licensing Officer's mediated Tariff Recommendation

Tariff 1 (T1 - For hirings commenced between 06:00 and 00:00)

If the distance does not exceed 800 yards for the whole of the distance £3.00

If the distance exceeds 800 yards:

- For the first 600yards £3.00
- For each subsequent 108 yards or uncompleted part thereof 10p

Tariff 2 (T2 – For hirings commenced between 00:01 and 05:59)

If the distance does not exceed 800 yards for the whole of the distance £4.00

If the distance exceeds 800 yards:

- For the first 800 yards £4.00
- For each subsequent 108 yards or uncompleted part thereof 10p

Tariff 3 (T3 – For hirings commenced on Bank Holidays)

Extra £1.50 on Tariff 1 / Tariff 2

Tariff 4 (T4)

For hirings commenced between 20:00 on 24 December and 06:00 on 27 December, and between Midnight on 31 December and 6:00 on 2 January

Twice tariff 1

WAITING TIME

Waiting time per minute 0.25p

EXTRA CHARGES

- For each passenger in excess of four £1 per passenger
- For each animal carried (except for assistance dogs) £2
- Soiling charge Amount Not exceeding £65
- Luggage/Suitcase/ Prams/ Wheelchairs etc. **No Fee**
(Other items maximum of £2 discretion of driver)

Tariff 1	Calculated fee	Displayed On Meter
Cost for 1 Mile	£3.83	£3:80
Cost for 2 Miles	£5.52	£5.50
Cost for 3 Miles	£7.15	£7:10
Cost for 4 Miles	£8.78	£8.70
Cost for 5 Miles	£10.41	£10.40

Appendix D

Neighbouring Authorities' Hackney Carriage Tariff

THE NATIONAL AVERAGE FARE	
Flag at T1 is now	£2.75
Flag at T2 is now	£3.62
1 mile fare T1 is now	£3.81
1 mile fare T2 is now	£5.01
2 mile fare T1 is now	£5.67
2 mile fare T2 is now	£7.43
5 mile fare T1 is now	£11.25
5 mile fare T2 is now	£14.73
10 mile fare T1 is now	£20.68
10 mile fare T2 is now	£27.03
Running mile on T1 is now	£1.86
Running mile on T2 is now	£2.44

AREA FARE AVERAGES						
Tariff One						
	Flag	1 mi.	2 mil.	5 mi.	10 mi.	Running Mile
East Anglia	£3.00	£3.93	£5.70	£10.99	£19.85	£1.77
Midlands	£2.71	£3.68	£5.44	£10.69	£19.42	£1.75
North	£2.46	£3.51	£5.23	£10.36	£19.00	£1.72
South	£2.97	£4.25	£6.24	£12.25	£22.63	£2.01
South West	£2.72	£4.02	£6.15	£12.51	£23.18	£2.12
Scotland	£2.74	£3.55	£5.33	£10.68	£19.62	£1.80
Wales	£2.82	£3.32	£5.16	£10.65	£19.79	£1.83
Net. Avg.	£2.75	£3.81	£5.67	£11.25	£20.68	£1.86

Tariff 1 Council	2 Miles
London	£7.20
Bristol	£6.20
Monmouthshire	£5.70
Cardiff	£5.60
Newport	£5.50
Swansea	£5.05
Caerphilly	£4.80
Torfaen	£4.80
Blaenau Gwent	£4.30