

Report to:	Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Date of Meeting:	1 November 2021
Subject:	Amendment of Hackney Carriage Tariffs		
Report of:	Head of Highways and Public Protection	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	N	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To ask members to consider a request from the Hackney Carriage trade representatives for an amendment to the existing tariffs.

Recommendation(s):

- (1) Consider the request from the Hackney Carriage Trade for an increase for the initial hiring charges to tariffs 1, 2 and 3 to £2.60. £3.25 and £3.90 respectively.
- (2) Consider the request to change the applicable time for charging tariff 2 on weekends (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) from 11pm - 6am to 7pm - 6am.
- (3) Consider the request to apply the waiting time charge to 25p per 60 seconds for all tariffs.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

Consultation has taken place throughout the trade regarding the proposed amendments and all the Hackney Carriage trade representatives have agreed to the changes. The last increase to the tariff was introduced in March 2017.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

None

(B) Capital Costs

None

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
The cost of the service is recovered from the ring-fenced Taxi Licensing Trade Account (Revenue Budget BD12).	
Legal Implications:	
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	Y
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y
There are no proposals in this report that that will alter any impact on climate change	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable:
Facilitate confident and resilient communities:
Commission, broker and provide core services: In conjunction with the Hackney Carriage trade enable the continued provision of vehicles on street and on ranks.
Place – leadership and influencer:
Drivers of change and reform:
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:
Greater income for social investment:

Cleaner Greener

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6576/21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4778/21....) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Hackney carriage trade representatives have agreed to the proposals.

Implementation Date for the Decision

If the recommendations are agreed, authorise that the proposals be advertised and subject to no objections being received, set an implementation date of 1 December 2021. In the event that objections are received, request the Licensing & Regulatory (Urgent Referrals) Committee to consider and determine such objections and set a revised date if applicable.

Contact Officer:	Mark Toohey
Telephone Number:	Tel: Ext 2274
Email Address:	mark.toohey@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

Annex 1 - proposed new tariffs

Annex 2 – existing tariffs

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (the 1976 Act) allows a district Council to fix fares for hackney carriages within its district. This includes time, distance and all other charges in connection with the hiring of a licensed vehicle.
- 1.2 The last tariff increase was introduced on 6 March 2017. Fuel prices, inflation/increased running costs and significant driver shortages have led to this request. The Bank of England report that inflation averaged 2.5% per year since 2017.
- 1.3 The Council currently licence 271 Hackney Carriage vehicles with 298 Hackney Carriage drivers compared to 324 drivers in October 2020.
- 1.4 The proposed new tariff and charges are attached as Annex 1 and the existing tariffs sheet is attached as Annex 2 to this report.

2. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 The trade representatives have indicated that the requested rise is intended to offset the increases the general cost of living over the last 4.5 years and is an attempt to ensure driver's net earnings do not fall below previous levels in real terms. Increases to local private hire fares may have also led to a migration of drivers.
- 2.2 Calculated at the one, two, three and four mile journey points on each tariff, below is a summary of the impact of the changes (excluding waiting times):

	1 mile	2 miles	3 miles	4 miles
Tariff 1				
Existing cost	£3.50	£4.10	£6.50	£8.10
New cost	£4.20	£5.80	£7.20	£8.80
Increase	70p/20%	70p/17%	70p/11%	70p/9%
Tariff 2				
Existing cost	£4.20	£6.30	£8.05	£10.05
New cost	£5.25	£7.25	£9.00	£11.00
Increase	95p/23%	95p/15%	95p/12%	95p/9%
Tariff 3				
Existing cost	£5.10	£7.50	£9.60	£12.00
New cost	£6.30	£8.70	£10.80	£13.20
Increase	£1.20/24%	£1.20/16%	£1.20/12%	£1.20/10%
% values have been rounded to the nearest whole number				

- 2.3 The additional waiting time charges apply to every 60 seconds. Tariff 1 is 20p, tariff 2 is 25p and tariff 3 is 30p. It has been proposed to bring all waiting time charges to 25p per 60 seconds.

- 2.4 The trade has also requested that tariff 2 be applied during weekends from the earlier time of 7pm instead of 11pm. This is to encourage drivers to better service these times surrounding the night time economy by increased usage of the current Hackney Carriage fleet at the weekends. This will also help owner drivers service and maintain and renew the current fleet of vehicles.
- 2.5 It is hoped the revised tariffs will maintain the current number of vehicles available as well as retaining and attracting new drivers and owners.
- 2.6 The 1976 Act requires any proposed increase to be advertised in a minimum of one local paper. The Notice must list the expiry date of the objection period and that period must be a minimum of fourteen days from the date of publication. A copy of the Notice must also be displayed on Council premises.
- 2.7 If the recommendations are agreed and no objections are received then it is suggested that the implementation date is 1 December 2021. In the event that objections are received then the Licensing & Regulatory (Urgent Referrals) Committee will consider and determine such objections and set a revised date (if applicable).