

Report to:	Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Date of Meeting:	4 September 2023
Subject:	Amendment of Hackney Carriage Tariffs		
Report of:	Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection)	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	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 increase in 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 £2.90, £3.60 and £4.10 respectively.
- (2) Adjust the distance on meter distance 'drops' to 210 yards initial hire, every 180 yards up to 1830 yards and every 200 yards thereafter.
- (3) Consider the request to change the applicable time for charging tariff 2 on Friday and Saturdays from 11pm - 6am to 9pm - 6am.

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 December 2021.

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:

<p>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</p> <p>The cost of the service is recovered from the ring-fenced Taxi Licensing Trade Account (Revenue Budget BD12).</p>								
<p>Legal Implications:</p>								
<p>Equality Implications:</p> <p>There are no equality implications</p>								
<p>Climate Emergency Implications:</p> <p>The recommendations within this report will</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>Have a positive impact</td><td>N</td></tr><tr><td>Have a neutral impact</td><td>Y</td></tr><tr><td>Have a negative impact</td><td>N</td></tr><tr><td>The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors</td><td>Y</td></tr></table> <p>There are no proposals in this report that that will alter any impact on climate change</p>	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
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Have a neutral impact	Y							
Have a negative impact	N							
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y							

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 (FD7351/23.....) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5551/23.....) 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 October 2023. 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.

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Appendices:

- Annex 1 – proposed new tariff
- Annex 2 – existing (2021) tariff

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 8 December 2021. Fuel prices, inflation/increased running and insurance costs and significant driver shortages have led to this request.
- 1.3 The Council currently licence 271 Hackney Carriage vehicles with 240 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 2 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 loss 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	£4.20	£5.80	£7.20	£8.80
New cost	£4.70	£6.50	£8.30	£10.10
Increase	50p/12%	70p/12%	£1.10p/15%	£1.30p/15%
Tariff 2				
Existing cost	£5.25	£7.00	£8.75	£10.75
New cost	£5.85	£8.10	£10.35	£12.60
Increase	60p/11%	£1.10p/16%	£1.60p/18%	£1.85p/17%
Tariff 3				
Existing cost	£6.30	£8.40	£10.50	£12.90
New cost	£6.80	£9.50	£12.20	£14.90
Increase	50p/8%	£1.10p/13%	£1.70/16%	£2/10/16%
% values have been rounded to the nearest whole number				

- 2.3 All waiting time charges are set at 25p per 60 seconds.
- 2.4 The trade have also requested that tariff 2 be applied during weekends (Fridays & Saturday evenings) from the earlier time of 9pm instead of 11pm. This is to encourage drivers to better service the later times surrounding the nighttime

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 also proposed to change the distance meter 'drops' that add either 20p, 25p or 30p during a journey. Currently, initial hire covers the first 242.8 yards, then every 209.72 yards up until reaching 1710.84 yards then every 225.25 thereafter (one mile is 1760 yards). It is proposed to change the initial hire distance to 200 yards then every 180 yards up until 1830 yards then every 200 yards thereafter. The proposed changes have been built into the prices in the table at 2.2.
- 2.6 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 October 2023. 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).