

# LICENSING AND REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

14 OCTOBER 2021

## REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS & DELIVERY)

### A.1 HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

(Report prepared by Michael Cook)

#### PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

##### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

For the Committee to consider a letter from the Tendring Taximeter Forum requesting both an increase in the scale of fares, and a change in distance for which the fare is calculated that is currently operative within the District, which was received on 9 August 2021. The letter is attached as Appendix 'A1' to the report.

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Committee last granted a fare increase effective from 15 August 2018.

Should the Committee decide to grant an increase to the table of fares, such increase must be advertised in the local press and any representations received placed before the next available meeting of the Licensing and Registration Committee for the consideration of Members.

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

- a) That the Licensing and Registration Committee determines whether or not to grant an increase to the table of fares operative within the District, as set out in Part 3 of this report.
- b) That, subject to (a), authority is granted to the Licensing Manager to proceed with the public notice of the intention of the Council to increase and amend the Hackney Carriage Fare Scale operative within the District in accordance with the request made.
- c) That, subject to (b) above, any representations received in response to the said public notice be considered by the Licensing and Registration Committee.

#### PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

##### **DELIVERING PRIORITIES**

The proposed increase to the table of fares supports a key element of this Council's Corporate Plan and the Sustainable Community Strategy for Tendring:

- Building a thriving local tourism industry for Tendring.

## FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

### Finance and other resources

The cost of two press advertisement required to notify the public of the intention to increase the Hackney Carriage Fare Scale can be met from within the approved 2021/2022 Revenue budget.

### Risk

If the proposed increase were not granted it could lead to fewer taxis being available to transport both the local population and visitors to the District.

## LEGAL

If the Committee are minded to grant the request, public notice must be given in at least one local newspaper of the intention of the Council to increase the Hackney Carriage fare scale in accordance with the provisions of Section 65 of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

## OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.

Crime and Disorder / Equality and Diversity / Consultation/Public Engagement.

### CRIME AND DISORDER

There are no Crime and Disorder implications

### EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

There are no Equality and Diversity implications.

### CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The proposed fare increase will be advertised, thus allowing public debate.

All comments generated by the advertisement will be considered by the Committee as part of the decision making process.

### AREA/WARDS AFFECTED

All wards

## PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### BACKGROUND

Below is the current Fare Tariff which came into effect on 15 August 2018.

<b>1.</b>	<b><u>MILEAGE</u></b>	
(a)	If the distance does not exceed 200 yards for the whole distance	<b>£3.00</b>
(b)	For each subsequent 200 yards or uncompleted part thereof in addition to (a) above	<b>.20</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b><u>WAITING TIME</u></b>	
	For each period of 60 seconds or uncompleted part thereof	<b>.20</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b><u>EXTRA CHARGES</u></b>	
(a)	For hirings throughout Sundays and throughout all Bank and Public Holidays and for hirings commencing after Midnight and before 6 a.m. Mondays to Saturdays inclusive	<b>One-half of the above rate of fare</b>
	<b>Note: When the Bank and Public Holiday charge is payable, the Sunday and night charges are not payable</b>	

(b)	For each article of luggage conveyed [Luggage means suitcases or trunks but not smaller items such as a briefcase or carrier bag]	<b>.20</b>
(c)	For each person in excess of one	<b>.20</b>
(d)	For each bicycle or non-folding pram	<b>.20</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b><u>MULTI-SEAT VEHICLES</u></b> When used to carry more than 4 passengers or a greater amount of luggage than can be conveyed in a four-seater	<b>Add one-half of the rates specified in 1 or 3(a) above</b>
	<b>Note: When this charge is payable no further extra charges are applicable.</b>	
<b>5.</b>	<b><u>CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR PERIODS</u></b> For the Christmas Period – 6 p.m. on 24 December until 7a.m. on 27 December For the New Year Period – 6 p.m. on 31 December until 7.am. on 2 January	<b>DoubleTariff 1</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b><u>MULTI-SEAT VEHICLES – CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR PERIOD</u></b> When used to carry more than 4 passengers or a greater amount of luggage than can be carried in a four seater for the days and times set out in Paragraph 5 above	<b>Double Tariff 1 plus 50%</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b><u>DAMAGE AND SOILAGE CHARGE</u></b> The driver may recover costs under Section 65 of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 from the hirer who will be responsible for any damage to (or human discharge left in) the taxi, which has been caused by the action of the hirer or travelling companion(s), and the hirer will be liable to meet the full cost of restoration work required to make good the effects of the aforementioned damage and/or human discharge.	
<b>8.</b>	<b><u>CARRIAGES FOR THE DISABLED</u></b> (No extra charges for wheelchairs)	<b>Fares as specified in 1,2 and 3 above</b>
A comparison table of cost of the existing tariff and the proposed tariff is attached as Appendix A2 to this report.		
A comparison table of the proposed tariff and other local authorities within the Essex area is attached as Appendix A3 to this report.		

## CONCLUSION

Officers feel that, owing to the increases in fuel, vehicle maintenance and insurance, and that there has been no request for an increase to the fare tariff since 2018, that there is merit in the Committee giving consideration to this request.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

None

## APPENDIX

Appendix A1 - Letter from Tendring Taximeter Forum - Dated 09 August 2021  
Appendix A2 - Comparison Fare Table Showing Effect of Tariff Changes  
Appendix A3 - Comparison Fare Table – Comparison with Other Authorities in Essex