

LICENSING AND REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

21 JULY 2022

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A.1 HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE SCALE

(Report prepared by Michael Cook & Keith Simmons)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The Committee is invited to consider separate requests from the Tendring Taximeter Forum and from the Clacton Taxi Private Hire Group for changes to the approved Hackney Carriage Fare Scale and to determine whether to approve a proposed variation to that currently approved Fare Scale. The current Hackney Carriage Fare Scale is set out in the Background section of this report below.

The request from the Tendring Taximeter Forum was received on 16 June 2022 requesting an increase in the scale of fares that is currently operative within the District.

The request from the Clacton Taxi and Private Hire Group received on 20 June 2022 requesting an increase in the scale of fares and a change of distance for which the Fare is calculated.

The two requests referred to above are attached as Appendix 'A1' to the report. To assist consideration of the requests, a Comparison Fare Table Showing the Effect of the two requested Tariff Changes is at Appendix A2 and at Appendix A3 there is a Comparison with Hackney Carriage Fare Scales in other Council areas in Essex.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Committee last approved a Hackney Carriage Fare Scale increase with effect from 15 February 2022 (Minute 115 of 17 January 2022 refers).

Should the Committee resolve to approve a intended variation to the existing Hackney Carriage Fare Scale, the law requires that the proposed increase must be advertised in a local newspaper and representations may be submitted in response. A period of 14 days (minimum) must be allowed for those representations. If no representations are received in that period the variation to the Fares will take immediate effect. However, if representations are received, the increase does not take effect until those representations have been considered. For this Council, any representations received will be placed before the next available meeting of the Licensing and Registration Committee. The Committee may then determine to confirm the increase, amend the proposed increase or withdraw the increase.

RECOMMENDATION

- a) That the Committee consider the two requests set out in this report and determine whether or not to approve an intended increase to the Hackney Carriage Fare Scale operative within the District;
- b) That, subject to (a), authority is granted to the Council's Licensing Manager to make all necessary arrangements to give 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 decision in this regard; and
- c) That, subject to (b) above, to note that any representations received in response to the said public notice will be considered by the Licensing and Registration Committee at a future meeting.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The setting of a Hackney Carriage Fare Scale at the optimum level to achieve a worthwhile income for drivers and vehicle owners of Hackney Carriages (while not unduly reducing demand from the public for those services) supports the key element of this Council's Corporate Plan 2020-24 in respect of "A growing and inclusive economy" and "Building sustainable communities for the future".

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

Finance and other resources

The cost of public notice press advertisements required to notify the public of the intention to increase the Hackney Carriage Fare Scale can be met from within the Council's approved 2022/2023 Revenue budget.

Risk

The greatest risk in respect of this matter is that the process set out in law is not followed correctly and therefore additional costs and reputational damage arises. The steps set out in this report seek to militate that risk.

LEGAL

If the Committee was minded to authorise a change in the Hackney Carriage Fare Scale, public notice must be given in at least one local newspaper of the intention of the Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 65 of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. A copy of the public notice must be deposited at the offices of the Council and shall at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment for at least 14 days after the edition of the newspaper the notice was published in.

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 arising from this report. However, the Committee will need to have regard to the Public Sector Equality duty when it assesses the requests submitted to it. The Government Office for Science published and “Access in the UK Transport system in March 2019 and this includes the following line: “Gender differences in car use are declining, but women are still less likely to be the main driver in households”.

The same report indicates that people with disabilities are still constrained in their travel options with “approximately 38% of all people with mobility difficulties [being] main drivers while approximately, 40% have no access to a private vehicle.

This points to potentially unequal access to public transport such as Hackney Carriages between men and women and those who have mobility issues and those who do not.

CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The proposed fare increase will be advertised through a public notice, thus allowing public consideration of the proposal.

All comments (representations) 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 Hackney Carriage Fare Scale which came into effect on 15 February 2022.

- 1. MILEAGE**
 - (a) If the distance does not exceed 185 yards for the whole distance **£3.00**
 - (b) For each subsequent 185 yards or uncompleted part thereof in addition to (a) above **.20**
- 2. WAITING TIME**
For each period of 60 seconds or uncompleted part thereof **.30**
- 3. EXTRA CHARGES**
 - (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 **One-half of the above rate of fare**
Note: When the Bank and Public Holiday charge is payable, the Sunday and night charges are not payable
 - (b) For each article of luggage conveyed **.20**
[Luggage means suitcases or trunks but not smaller items such as a briefcase or carrier bag]
 - (c) For each person in excess of one **.20**
 - (d) For each bicycle or non-folding pram **.20**
- 4. MULTI-SEAT VEHICLES**
When used to carry more than 4 passengers or a greater amount of luggage than can be conveyed in a four-seater **Add one-half of the rates specified in 1 or 3(a) above**
Note: When this charge is payable no further extra charges are applicable.
- 5. CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR PERIODS**
For the Christmas Period – 6 p.m. on 24 December until 7a.m. on 27 December **DoubleTariff 1**
For the New Year Period – 6 p.m. on 31 December until 7.am. on 2 January
- 6. MULTI-SEAT VEHICLES – CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR PERIOD**
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 **Double Tariff 1 plus 50%**
- 7. DAMAGE AND SOILAGE CHARGE**
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.
- 8. CARRIAGES FOR THE DISABLED**
(No extra charges for wheelchairs) **Fares as specified in 1,2 and 3 above**

A comparison table of cost of the existing tariff and the proposed tariffs are attached as Appendix A2 to this report.

A comparison table of the proposed tariffs 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, that there is merit in the Committee giving consideration to the requests referenced in this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION
None

APPENDIX
Appendix A1 - Request from Tendring Taximeter Forum - Request from Clacton Taxi and Private Hire Group Appendix A2 - Comparison Fare Table Showing Effect of Tariff Changes Appendix A3 - Comparison Fare Table – Comparison with Colchester, Chelmsford and Southend