

TITLE	Hackney Carriage Tariff Review
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Licensing and Appeals Committee on 10 January 2012
WARD	None Specific
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR	Mark Moon – Place and Neighbourhood Services

OUTCOME

To determine the Hackney Carriage tariff for the next twelve months.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to consider:

1. A change in the tariff by reducing the initial yardage from 880 to 600 yards and each subsequent yards from 176 to 126 yards.

Or

2. Leaving the tariff as it is for another year

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The report sets out the outcomes of initial consultation with existing drivers of Hackney Carriage Vehicles and some of the larger Operators for a review of Taxi Tariffs.

Background

Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows the Council to fix the rates for fares and other related charges in connection with the hire of Hackney Carriages. The Licensing & Appeals Committee agreed in March 2005 to review the taxi tariffs on an annual basis.

The last tariff increase was in May 2010, where it was resolved by members to adopt the drivers preferred option to increase the flag distance, decrease the increment distance and add the time variation.

The views of the drivers regarding the next annual review were sought with a letter being sent to all 103 hackney carriage drivers and the larger operators in November 2011. The letter asked if the drivers wished the tariff to remain unchanged with a view to consulting again next year, or if they would like an amendment, asking as to the best way to approach this.

Responses were received by 80 drivers, with 78 asking for a change and 2 for no change. These results are shown as Appendix I.

Members will note that Drivers have made comments regarding the use of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles, this has been discussed in the past and is a subject for Committee to consider in the future and is not for consideration as part of this report.

The drivers that asked for change in the main wished to see the Tariff 1 minimum fare kept at £3.00 for a journey of up to 600 yards (currently 880 yards) or part thereof and for each subsequent 126 yards or 40 seconds (currently 176 yards or 40 seconds) or part thereof, 20p. The effect of this would be to make all journeys more expensive.

The trade publication, Private Hire and Taxi Monthly, publishes a league table of fares charged for a daytime two-mile journey in most areas of the Country. The current charge applicable to Wokingham and neighbouring authorities are shown in Appendix II.

Consultation

The following procedures are laid down by legislation and must be followed when making changes to a table of tariff and fares:

- 1.1 A note of the proposed changes must be published in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district. The notice must specify a period of at least 14 days from the date of publication when objections can be made to the Council. (This costs in the region of £950).
- 1.2 A copy of the published notice must be made available at the Borough Council Offices for public inspection, free of charge at all reasonable times.
- 1.3 If there are no objections, or those made are withdrawn, the variation in table of fares comes into effect of the expiration of the time allowed for public consultation in the notice.
- 1.4 If there are any objections, and they are not withdrawn, the Council must set a date within two months of the expiry date for public consultation, and then consider the objections made before agreeing a table of tariffs and fares.

Analysis of Issues

Wokingham Borough Council set the Hackney Carriage Tariff. Realistic rates must be set by the Council that balances the economic needs of licensees, whilst ensuring that persons using hackney carriages are not overcharged. There is also the need to ensure that hackney carriage proprietors are not priced out of the market to private hire firms, although the set tariff is the maximum that can be charged. It is open to negotiation between the passenger and driver if a lower fare is to be charged.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

Not Applicable

List of Background Papers

Existing taxi tariffs Private Hire and Taxi Monthly – table of comparative tariffs Consultation responses Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Town & Police Clauses Act 1847

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TARIFF REVIEW CONSULTATION 2011

APPENDIX ONE

Badge	No Change	Change	Comments
DD396		√	Huge rise to cover insurance, fuel, admin charges, repairs VAT 20%. You mention damaging trade you are all too keen to put our fees up and you charge this illegal admin charge, so we want an admin charge on all taxi fares Thank you
DD577		√	Please put up as was held last year. My insurance has gone up 30% (I have not had a claim). Your fees have gone up more than inflation. Fuel and garage costs, VAT all gone up
DD051		√	Has to be seeing as there was no increase last year. Attention priority must be given to licence holders with 2+ years experience of working in the area
DD596	√		
DD286		√	There needs to be an increase in the tariffs. All things to do with taxis are on the increase, road tax, insurance fume and maintenance charges, the tariffs were held down last year but with all things on the increase they must go up.
DD360		√	Everything else has increased since lasts change in tariff, so should tariff
DD049	√		Can we check that all hackney carriage taxis can take wheelchairs as we have had so many complaints from the public that they refuse to take wheelchair people
DD499		√	Keep the minimum fare at £3.00 Change Tariff 1 For a journey up to 600 yards or 140 seconds or part thereof and for each subsequent 126 yards or 40 seconds or part thereof 20p Tariff 2,3,4,5 and 6 should change accordingly
DD475		√	Keep the minimum fare at £3.00 Change Tariff 1 For a journey up to 600 yards or 140 seconds or part thereof and for each subsequent 126 yards or 40 seconds or part thereof 20p Tariff 2,3,4,5 and 6 should change accordingly
DD672		√	Keep the minimum fare at £3.00 Change Tariff 1 For a journey up to 600 yards or 140 seconds or part thereof and for each subsequent 126 yards or 40 seconds or part thereof 20p Tariff 2,3,4,5 and 6 should reflect this change

DD713		√	Keep the minimum fare at £3.00 Change Tariff 1 For a journey up to 600 yards or 140 seconds or part thereof and for each subsequent 126 yards or 40 seconds or part thereof 20p Tariff 2,3,4,5 and 6 should reflect this change
DD593		√	Keep the minimum fare at £3.00 Change Tariff 1 For a journey up to 600 yards or 140 seconds or part thereof and for each subsequent 126 yards or 40 seconds or part thereof 20p Tariff 2,3,4,5 and 6 should reflect this change
DD530		√	Keep the minimum fare at £3.00 Change Tariff 1 For a journey up to 600 yards or 140 seconds or part thereof and for each subsequent 126 yards or 40 seconds or part thereof 20p Tariff 2,3,4,5 and 6 should reflect this change
DD431		√	Keep the minimum fare at £3.00 Change Tariff 1 For a journey up to 600 yards or 140 seconds or part thereof and for each subsequent 126 yards or 40 seconds or part thereof 20p Tariff 2,3,4,5 and 6 should change accordingly
DD771		√	Keep the minimum fare at £3.00 Change Tariff 1 For a journey up to 600 yards or 140 seconds or part thereof and for each subsequent 126 yards or 40 seconds or part thereof 20p Tariff 2,3,4,5 and 6 should change accordingly
DD347		√	Keep the minimum fare at £3.00 Change Tariff 1 For a journey up to 600 yards or 140 seconds or part thereof and for each subsequent 126 yards or 40 seconds or part thereof 20p Tariff 2,3,4,5 and 6 should reflect this change
DD635		√	Keep the minimum fare at £3.00 Change Tariff 1 For a journey up to 600 yards or 140 seconds or part thereof and for each subsequent 126 yards or 40 seconds or part thereof 20p Tariff 2,3,4,5 and 6 should reflect this change
DD745		√	No to Wheelchair Access. Depending on the current situation when everyone is struggling in the recession I think tariff need a review as recent increase in insurance prices and cost of maintenance also has gone up. Big cars are not affordable
DD752		√	If we have to driver smaller cars then we can take extra burden but these bigger and bigger cars means we have to change the tariff. Keep face value same (i.e. £3 & 20p after) but decrease the distance and initial time from 200 sec to 140 sec.

DD436		√	Keep the opening rate same but reset starting Pulsar (meter) after 20 meter start counting
DD746		√	Due to extra burden on drivers imposed by the council to drive these massive wheelchair cars, these tariffs are no more affordable. Plus work is gone down, fuel , insurance and council fees, all are gone up. Start by £3 and then 600 yards & 140 seconds 20p for every 126 yards afterwards keep the waiting same
DD768		√	We can not afford these big massive wheelchair cars. Should tell the public due to Council's wish you have to pay the price. Increase the tariff by decreasing the distance keep £3 and increments and 20p same
DD765		√	Decrease the distance 800 yards to 600 yards and then to 126 yards and keep the face value (£3 & 20p) same and initial time from 200 sec to 140 sec. Big cars are not affordable, change to saloons and make it worthwhile
DD761		√	Increase the fares by decreasing the distance. We are saying to the customers it is local council and councillors demand to drive bigger cars change them please.
DD454		√	Keep £3 same and decrease the distance. Stop big cars, change to smaller and please stop more plates
DD749		√	Keep starting fare same and change after by decreasing the yards change to saloons. Big cars are not profitable killing the trade. Stop the new cars, too many already.
DD766		√	Keep starting fare same decrease the yards after. Stop the wheelchair cars not affordable and are safety of health risk. Stop new plates now
DD673		√	Keep starting £3 and decrease the yards & 600 after and time as well after that keep the same. Stop big cars and stop new cars plated
DD701		√	Keep £3 same decrease the distance after and initial time. Stop new plates. All drivers are demanding to change. Please stop playing with our livelihood these big cars are taking up to 70% of our fares. Not affordable on these fuel prices too extra burden for no use
DD306		√	Keep the starting £3 same decrease the distance after. Stop new plates and allow saloons to stop harming the trade anymore

DD781		√	Keep starting £3 and decrease the distance after. No more expensive wheelchair car have no use but to kill the trade and just extra burden customers do not like. Health and safety risk too. Stop new plates too.#
DD711		√	Keep face value (£3 and 20p) same and decrease the distance and waiting time. Stop big cars and new HC plates
DD342		√	Keep £3 & 20p same decrease distance and time. Stop big cars too expensive for no use. Stop new plates
DD754		√	Keep £3& 20p same decrease the distance and time. Stop new plates and all saloons plz!
DD705		√	No more big cars and no more plates please. Too many cars for too less work keep starting £3 same and decrease the yards
DD625		√	Please return to more fuel efficient cars. In these work conditions we can not maintain these big cars on these prices. It is our livelihood. Increase in tariff keep £3 same and decrease the yards after. Stop new plates
DD677		√	Decrease the starting yards and subsequent will be remain the same. No more big cars please not affordable and plz stop new plates
DD679		√	Decrease the starting yard and subsequent will remain the same. Saloon cars are three times cheaper to run. Please change and stop new plates
DD698		√	Reduce starting tariff. Wheelchair accessible cars are extra burden. Please change to saloons/hybrid cars. Stop new plates now!
DD626		√	Reduce starting tariff up to 352 yard and no change subsequence 176 yard. Stop new cars plated. No to wheelchair accessible big cars now work for them three times more expensive to run
DD685		√	The starting tariff must be same but the yards that follow after starting meter must be jumped down. Thanks!
DD440		√	Reduce starting tariff yard at 352 yards and no change subsequence 176 yards. Change to saloons please and stop new plates
DD757		√	Starting tariff shoud be remained same but must be reduce the yarding that follow after starting the meter. Thanks!
DD254		√	Reduce starting yards 352 yards and no change 176 subsequence yards
DD727		√	Please decrease the yards of the meter. Please allow saloon cars Thanks. Stop new HC plates

DD689		√	Reduce starting tariff yards up to 352 yard and no change 176 yard subsequence. Thanks
DD767		√	Plz reduce the distance to start the tariff both for tariff (1) and (2) no change in subsequent distance. Big cars to expensive change to saloon plz. Stop new plates
DD740		√	Request to change the distance for starting tariff. Why council is killing the trade too many and too big cars. Plz take action now. We are killing the living of too many drivers and families
DD692		√	Please reduce the starting yards up to (352 & 80 seconds) and no change in subsequent (176 yards & 40 seconds) It will effect only main local tariff and increase 60 pence in main tariff 1 and even longer journey only increase same. No more and not bigger plz! Amount of money because of no change of subsequent 176 yards and only change will effect 90p in tariff 2, short and long journey. Thanks.
DD707		√	Please reduce the yards distance from 880 yards to 350 yards
DD725		√	Keep £3 & 20p same decrease the distance and time. Please allow saloons. These big cars are not affordable Too Too expensive for no use. Stop new plated cars. Wokingham is not a big town
DD777		√	Please keep £3 & 20p same change by decreasing the distance and time. Stop new plates and allow saloons. Customers do not like these cars and too expensive for no extra use
DD394		√	Please keep £3 and 20p decrease the distance and waiting time. Stop new plates and wheelchair cars no use for them. Just extra burden on drivers
DD533		√	Please start with same £3 decrease the distance to 600 yards and 120 sec keep same after. Stop new HC plates too many cars already change to saloons plz!
DD776		√	These big wheelchair cars are not affordable on these tariffs anymore. Keep the starting fare £3 same and decrease the distance from 800 yards to 600 yards and same after that to 126 yards
DD760		√	Keep the initial £3 & 20p same decrease the distance and time after. Please allow small cars and stop new plates.
DD708		√	Keep the initial price same decrease the distance and time. Due to the larger cars we cannot afford this tariff. Please stop new plates and allow saloons.

DD665		√	We demand saloons and stop new plates. Keep initial price (i.e. £3 & 20p) same. Decrease the distance after.
DD778		√	Please increase, keep £3 & 20p same but decrease the distance and time. Please allow saloons and stop the new plates.
DD113		√	Reduce starting yards up to 352yards.Allow saloons and stop new plates
DD526		√	Decrease distance and time, keep face same, Stop new plates and allow small cars.
DD550		√	Increase the tariff keep £3 & 20p same, and decrease the distance and time. Stop new cars and allow small cars.
DD714		√	Keep initial price same. Decrease the distance and time. Stop new cars and allow smaller cars.
DD753		√	Decrease the distance of time. Allow saloons and please stop new plates now.
DD726		√	Keep face value same but decrease the distance and time. Allow saloons and stop new plates.
DD506		√	Decrease the distance and time keep £3 & 20p. Allow smaller cars and stop new plates.
DD595		√	Bigger cars are not affordable, please decrease the distance and time. Stop new plates to save the trade immediately.
DD722		√	Decrease starting yards. Stop new plates and allow saloons.
DD764		√	Please decrease the yards and seconds. Stop new plates .Allow smaller, fuel efficient and comfortable cars.
DD762		√	Please reduce the starting distance from 880 yds and not change the subsequent distance (yards)
DD690		√	Pleas keep initial £3 & 20p same. Decrease the distance from 800yds to 600yds and time to 120 seconds. Allow saloons and stop new plates.
DD759		√	Decrease the distance and time stop new plates and allow smaller cars.
DD769		√	We cannot run big cars on these prices. Allow saloons and decrease the distance and time .Stop new plates.
DD748		√	Please increase the tariff by decreasing time and distance. Keep face value same £3 & 20p. Stop the plates and wheelchair access immediately please.

DD715		√	Change Tariff (!) to keep the minimum fare at £3.00 for a journey of up to 600yards or 140 seconds or part thereof for each subsequent 126 yards or 40 seconds or part thereof 20p.
DD631		√	Leave the minimum fare at £3 for the journey of up to 650yards or 150 seconds or part thereof for each subsequent 130 yards or 40 seconds.
DD420		√	Keep the minimum fare at £3 Change tariff 1.For each journey of up to 600 yards 140 seconds or part thereof.For each subsequent 126 yards or 40 seconds or part thereof 20p.
DD780		√	Change tariff 1. Keep the minimum fare at £3.00.For a Journey of up to 600 yards or 140 seconds or part thereof. Foe each subsequent 126 yards or 40 seconds or part thereof Tariff 2,3,4,5, and 6 should reflect the change
DD432		√	Change tariff 1. Keep the minimum fare at £3.00.For a Journey of up to 600 yards or 140 seconds or part thereof. Foe each subsequent 126 yards or 40 seconds or part thereof Tariff 2,3,4,5, and 6 should reflect the change
DD650		√	Change tariff 1. Keep the minimum fare at £3.00.For a Journey of up to 600 yards or 140 seconds or part thereof. Foe each subsequent 126 yards or 40 seconds or part thereof Tariff 2,3,4,5, and 6 should reflect the change

Comparison of current tariff with neighbouring authorities

	Wokingham (65)*	Reading (8)*	Bracknell Forest (46)*	Guildford (119)*	West Berkshire (32)*
	Tariff 1 (06.00 – 23.00)	Tariff 1 (06.00 – 22.00)	Tariff 1 (07.00-23.00)	Tariff 1 (07.00-23.00)	Tariff 1 (06.00-22.00)
Flag	£3.00	£2.20	£3.00	£3.00	£2.50
One Mile	£4.00	£4.20	£4.20	£3.80	£4.20
Two Miles	£6.00	£6.60	£5.40	£5.60	£6.20
Waiting	20p - 40 seconds	20p – 45 seconds	20p – 57 seconds	20p – 36 seconds	10p – 18 seconds
	Tariff 2 (23.00 – 06.00)	Tariff 2 (22.00 – 06.00)	Tariff 2 (23.00 – 07.00)	Tariff 2 (23.00 – 07.00)	Tariff 2 (22.00 – 06.00)
Flag	£4.50	£3.20	£4.50	£4.00	£3.50
One Mile	£6.00	£5.20	£6.30	£5.20	£6.05
Two Miles	£9.00	£7.40	£9.00	£7.60	£9.05
Waiting	30p – 40 seconds	20p – 42 seconds	20p – 57 seconds	30p – 29 seconds	15p – 18 seconds
Soiling Charge	£50.00	£40.00	£50.00	£50.00	No set fee
Date Introduced	May 2010	October 2011	June 2011	October 2010	April 2011

* Denotes position in The National League Tables Averages (Tariff 1 two mile fare as being the lowest common denominator) – November 2011 – source Private Hire and Taxi Monthly