

TITLE	Hackney Carriage Tariff Review
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Licensing and Appeals Committee on 5 March 2012
WARD	None Specific
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR	Mark Moon – Neighbourhood Services
LEAD MEMBER	UllaKarin Clark – Lead Member for Internal 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 to that resolved by the Committee in January (10% rise)

Or

2. An increase in the tariff of 5%

Or

3. An alternative tariff as determined by members of the Committee

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The report sets out the outcomes of additional tariff percentage enquiries following an initial report considered by members of the Licensing and Appeals Committee in January.

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 . A report was considered in 2011 but no change to the tariff was agreed.

A report regarding Tariffs was put to the Licensing and Appeals Committee in January 2012 where it was resolved that:

the initial yardage remain at 880 yards and that each subsequent yard be reduced from 176 to 150 yards, be agreed, subject to no objections being received during the public consultation period.

The Licensing Service asked the meter agents who programme the meters what impact this would have on the tariff and were told that it would be approximately a 10% rise.

The Licensing Service asked the Chairman of the Committee, in the light of this information, whether we should go straight out to public consultation in the local newspaper or consult with the drivers first.

The Chairman responded, having consulted with a number of members of the Licensing Committee, that they were of the view that 10% may be too much and asked that the Committee be allowed to reconsider the actual figures as they had understood the suggestion they had agreed on would be around a 5% increase. Consequently no public consultation has been undertaken.

The Licensing Service subsequently asked the meter agent what this would equate to in yardage/time terms and received this reply:

a reduction in the initial yardage from 880 to 836 yards and each subsequent yardage from 176 to 167 yards and 40 seconds to 38. This is replicated in a tariff style table as Appendix 1.

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 and is funded from the licensing income).
- 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 the table of fares comes into effect on 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 by 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 Licensing and Appeals Committee January 2012 Agenda and Minutes Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
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Town & Police Clauses Act 1847

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Date 20 February 2012	Version No. Two

THESE PRICES DO NOT APPLY TO TAXI'S BOOKED THROUGH A PRIVATE HIRE OPERATOR.

Wokingham Borough Council Hackney Carriage Table of Fares

(Implementation date2012)

These tariffs are a maximum and any fare reduction should be negotiated with the driver before the hiring commences

Tariff 1	For hiring between 6am and 11 pm For a journey of up to 836 yds or 190 seconds or part thereof	£3.00
Tariff 1	For each subsequent 167yds or 38 seconds or part thereof	20p
Tariff 1 Waiting Time	For each period of 40 seconds or part thereof	20p
Tariff 2	For hiring between 11pm and 6am Except All day Bank and official Public Holidays (exceptions see Tariff 3) Between 6pm and 11pm on 24 and 31 December	Additional 50% on Tariff 1
Tariff 3	For hiring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After 11pm on 24 and 31 December • All day 25th December • All day 26th December to 6am 27th December • All day 1st January 	Additional 100% on Tariff 1

FOR VEHICLES CARRYING FIVE OR MORE PASSENGERS		
Tariff 4	For hiring between 6am and 11 pm For a journey of up to 836 yds or 190 seconds or part thereof	£4.50
Tariff 4	For each subsequent 167 yds or 38 seconds or part thereof	30p
Tariff 4 Waiting Time	For each period of 38 seconds or part thereof	30p
Tariff 5	For hiring between 11pm and 6am Except All day Bank and official Public Holidays (exception see tariff 6) Between 6pm and 11pm on 24 and 31 December	Additional 50% on Tariff 4
Tariff 6	For hiring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After 11pm on 24 and 31 December • All day 25th December • All day 26th December to 6am 27th December • All day 1st January 	Additional 100% on Tariff 4

Extra Charge	Fouling of Vehicle Exterior	£10.00
Extra Charge	Fouling of Vehicle Interior	£50.00