

REPORT TO: LICENSING COMMITTEE – 10 DECEMBER 2010

REPORT BY: LICENSING MANAGER

REPORT AUTHOR: NICKII HUMPHREYS

**Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
Proposed Variation of Hackney Carriage Table of Fares**

1.0 Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is for the Committee to consider a number of objections received in response to the public notice of the proposed variation to the existing Hackney Carriage Table of Fares and to determine whether or not to vary the current table of fares.

2.0 Recommendation

RECOMMENDED

(1) that the Committee approve the fare table previously considered by the Licensing Committee on 13 October 2010 and as set out in Section 5 of this report;

(2) that the varied table of fares shall come into operation on 10 December 2010.

3.0 Legislative Provisions

3.1 Under the provisions of section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, a Council may fix the rates or fares within its district for Hackney Carriage Vehicles (“Taxis”).

3.2 In accordance with the requirements of the Act, the Council publicly advertised the proposals in a local newspaper on 19 October 2010 and also provided information advising where objections should be sent to, how they can be made and the deadline for responses (“first specified date”). A copy of the notice was made available at the Civic Offices for inspection.

3.3 In response to the public notice a number of objections have been received and therefore the Licensing Committee must now consider those objections.

3.4 After considering those objections (and it should be noted that whilst the Committee must consider them, it does not have to vary the proposed fare as a result) the Committee must then set a second date, which cannot be more than two months after the first date specified in the public notice to set when the new fares either as proposed or revised will come into force.

4.0 Background Information

- 4.1 Attached as Appendix A to this report is a copy of the original report considered by the Licensing Committee on 13 October 2010 when it decided to approve for publication the proposed variations to the table of fares.
- 4.2 In response to the public notice, the Licensing Service received a number of objections to the proposals. Attached as Appendix B is a list of all the names of hackney carriage drivers/proprietors who have objected.
- 4.3 The licensing manager reports that the objections consist of a pre-printed statement saying "*I object to the fare increase proposed*" [sic] but the form does not set out any reasons or indeed any possible alternative solutions to the proposed rate of fares.

5.0 Details of proposed rate of fares

5.1 TARIFF 1 - DAYTIME & BASIC FARE - For hirings between 0700 and 2200 hours

£2.20 (minimum charge) for the first 300 yards (274.32 metres) or 51.43 seconds or part thereof

20p for each additional 200 yards (182.88 metres) or 51.43 seconds or part thereof until the fare reaches £12.60

20p thereafter for each 155 yards (141.73 metres) or 36 seconds or part thereof

This represents a rate of £3.85 for the first mile undertaken and a 4% increase against the current table of fares. Subsequent miles undertaken will be at a rate of £1.75 per mile which represents a 9.3% increase on the current charge.

5.2 TARIFF 2 - NIGHT TIME & SUNDAYS - For hirings between 2200 and 0700 hours

£2.60 (minimum charge) for the first 188 yards (171.90 metres) or 42.35 seconds or part thereof

20p for each additional 188 yards (171.90 metres) or 42.35 seconds or part thereof until the fare reaches £13.80

20p thereafter for each 155 yards (141.73 metres) or 36 seconds or part thereof

This represents a rate of £4.47 for the first mile undertaken and a 3.4% increase against the current table of fares. Subsequent miles undertaken will be at a rate of £1.87 per mile which represents a 8.7% increase on the current charge.

5.3 TARIFFS 3 AND 4 – NO CHANGES TO THE STRUCTURE OF THE EXISTING FORMULA FOR CALCULATING CHARGES

5.4 Approved extra charges:

60p	HM Naval Base entry
£40	Fouling of vehicle by passenger or animal
20p(max)	Carriage of between 2 and 4 passengers and ALL luggage
50p	Carriage of 5 passengers
£1.00	Carriage of 6 passengers
£1.50	Carriage of 7 passengers
£2.00	Carriage of 8 passengers
Card payment	Some taxis accept credit/debit cards for which a charge of £1.00 or 12.5% of the metered fare will be payable
Excessive Loads/Luggage	Will be agreed by negotiation between the driver and passenger(s) prior to the commencement of the journey but will not exceed a maximum charge of £10.00

6.0 Appendices

Appendix A – Original report to Licensing Committee on 13 October 2010;

Appendix B – List of hackney carriage drivers/proprietors objecting to the proposed variation.


Licensing Manager

There are no background papers associated with this report.