

REPORT TO: LICENSING COMMITTEE – 13 OCTOBER 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 variation to the existing Hackney Carriage Table of Fares to permit an increase to the maximum rate of fares and other charges in respect of arrangements for the hire of a vehicle.

2.0 Recommendation

RECOMMENDED

- (1) that the Committee approve for publication the proposed variations to the table of fares shown in paragraph 5.7 below;**
- (2) that the Licensing Manager be authorised to give public notice of the variations pursuant to section 65 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976;**
- (3) that, subject to no objections being received, the varied table of fares shall come into operation on Monday 15 November 2010; and**
- (4) that the Licensing Manager be authorised to amend the standard terms and conditions relating to private hire and hackney carriage vehicles so as to require the display of a notice on the licensed vehicle advising that additional charges will apply when payment is made by way of credit/debit card payment.**

3.0 Legislative Provisions

- 3.1 Under the provisions of s 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 Taxi fares are set for both time and distance together with any other appropriate extra charges as may be determined. Taxis have programmed and calibrated meters to record and display the fare. It has been a local policy directive for many years that the Portsmouth taxi fare structure runs on a clock calendar progressive rate using authorised and sealed taxi meters. Fare rises are considered on individual merit and after discussion with approved trade representatives.

- 3.3 When making or varying a table of fares, the Council must publicly advertise the proposals in a local newspaper, stating the details of the proposed fares.
- 3.4 The notice must specify a date, not less than 14 days following the date that the notice is published which serves two purposes:
- a) It is the date by which any objections to the variation must lodged with the Council; and
 - b) Is the date on which the revised fares will come into effect if either –
 - (i) No objections are received; or
 - (ii) Any objections received have been withdrawn before that specified date.
- 3.5 The notice must also state where objections should be sent to and how they can be made.
- 3.6 A copy of the notice must be available at the Civic Offices for inspection free of charge at all reasonable hours.
- 3.7 Once the time period for objections has expired, and if there have been no objections or those that have been made are subsequently withdrawn, then the new rate of fares will immediately come into effect.
- 3.8 If objections are made and are not withdrawn then the Licensing Committee must meet to consider those objections.
- 3.9 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, when the new fares will come into force.

4.0 Background Information

- 4.1 Representations have been made to the Licensing Manager by recognised hackney carriage trade representatives for an increase to the current table of fares. The last fare rise approved by the Council was in July 2008 – (MIS 25/06/2008 refers).
- 4.2 In making this request, the trade representatives point to increases in the cost of fuel and insurance together with ancillary increased costs for the purchase of “station passes” to ply for hire on rail property and rises in car taxation. They also acknowledge that the proposed fare increase is in excess of the current rate of inflation (3%) but ask the Committee to approve the rise as proportionate to offset motoring costs since 2008.

4.3 Local comparisons against other neighbouring local authorities are shown in the table below:

Local Authority:	Tariff 1 Mile - £	Tariff 2 Mile - £	Corresponding number in national table:
Eastleigh	£4.30	£5.10	24
East Hants	£4.20	£6.05	58
Southampton	£4.00	£5.20	130
IOW	£3.80	£7.60	121
Winchester	£3.80	£5.70	88
Gosport	£3.80	£5.70	116
Havant	£3.80	£5.70	119
Fareham	£3.80	£5.70	115
Portsmouth	£3.60	£4.30	175
New Forest	£3.20	£4.30	125

4.4 A copy of a national league table showing averages and by area produced by the Taxi and Private Hire Monthly publication is attached as Appendix A.

5.0 Details of current and proposed rate of fares

5.1 Current Rate:

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

£2.20 (minimum charge) for the first 330 yards (301.75 metres) or 51.43 seconds or part thereof

20p for each additional 220 yards (201.16 metres) or 51.43 seconds or part thereof until the fare reaches £11.60

20p thereafter for each 160 yards (146.30 metres) or 37.89 seconds or part thereof

(Therefore, the first mile represents £3.70 with each subsequent mile £1.60. After 6 miles or £11.60 higher fares will apply. Waiting time on the Tariff 1 rate is £14.00 per hour).

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

£2.60 (minimum charge) for the first 204 yards (186.53 metres) or 42.35 seconds or part thereof

20p for each additional 204 yards (186.53 metres) or 42.35 seconds or part thereof until the fare reaches £12.80

20p thereafter for each 160 yards (146.30 metres) or 37.89 seconds or

part thereof

(Therefore, the first mile represents approximately £4.30 with each subsequent mile approximately £1.70. After 6 miles or £12.80 higher fares will apply. Waiting time on the Tariff 2 rate is £17.00 per hour).

5.4 TARIFF 3 – BANK AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS – For hirings on bank and public holidays the fare will be at Tariff 1 rate plus 50%

To include 1800-2400 on Christmas Eve, 0000-0600 on 27 December, 1800-2400 on New Year's Eve and 0600 on New Year's Day through to 0600 on 2 January

Note: Tariff 1 (progressive after 6 miles) and night/Sunday rates will not apply.

5.5 TARIFF 4 – DOUBLE HOLIDAY CHARGES – For hirings on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and between 0000-0600 on the morning of New Year's Day Tariff 1 rate plus 100%.

Note: Tariff 1 (progressive after 6 miles) and night/Sunday rates will not apply.

5.6 Approved extra charges:

50p HM Naval Base entry
£40 Fouling of vehicle by passenger or animal
20p(max) Between 2 and 4 passengers
20p(for each passenger) between 5- 8 passengers
20p(max) Carriage of any item(s) outside the passenger compartment

5.7 Proposed Rate:

The proposed variation relates primarily to amendments in respect of Tariff 1 and 2 together with suggested variations to the "approved extra charges" to reflect on local trade working practices. There is no variation requested in relation to the bank and other public holiday charges for Tariffs 3 and 4.

5.8 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.

5.9 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 40 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.

5.10 TARIFFS 3 AND 4 – NO CHANGES TO EXISTING CHARGES

5.11 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 – National league table of hackney carriage fares.

Appendix B – Table of current hackney carriage fares.



Licensing Manager

There are no background papers associated with this report.