

Name of meeting: Licensing and Safety Committee

Date: Wednesday 5th October 2022

Title of report: Hackney Carriage Fare Increase

Purpose of report: For members to consider and resolve a new fare card for the Hackney Carriage Vehicles

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not Applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	Key Decision - No Private Report/Private Appendix – No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not Applicable
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Colin Parr – 26.09.2022 Eamonn Croston – 22.09.2022 Julie Muscoft – 22.09.2022
Cabinet member portfolio	Councillor Will Simpson

Electoral wards affected: ALL

Ward councillors consulted: None

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes, there is no personal data contained in this report.

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is, as a result of a request from the Hackney Carriage Association, for Members to carry out a review of the hackney carriage fare tariff.

2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1 Hackney Carriage fares, the fares paid by the travelling public, are set by the Local Authority.
- 2.2 The power to set fares, and the process which must be followed, are contained within Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 ('the Act') and is a discretionary power.
- 2.3 Across the country Local Authorities approach their power to set fares differently, some will routinely commence the process of reviewing their fares without prompt from the trade themselves. Others, including Kirklees, await a formal request from the trade before starting the process of reviewing fares.
- 2.4 On 23rd February 2022 trade representatives for the hackney carriage association submitted an emailed request to the licensing service, following a vote of the hackney carriage vehicle proprietors, for an increase in the hackney carriage fares.
- 2.5 The request submitted was for all tariffs to have a £1 increase on start price and that for tariff 2 and 4 to commence at 8pm instead of 10pm.
- 2.6 The tariffs at the time of the request are attached at **Appendix 1**
- 2.7 Accepting the request, and in accordance with the Act, the service formally consulted on increasing the hackney carriage fares in line with the request from the trade. The service also wrote to all hackney carriage proprietors and emailed trade representatives.
- 2.8 The consultation ended on 31st March 2022, which resulted in 18 responses, including one petition, and one response from a member of the public, a summary of the responses are as follows: -
- 7 individuals were in favour of the fare increase
 - 10 individuals were against the fare increase and proposed alternatives
 - 1 petition signed by 92 licence holders against the fare increase proposing an alternative.
- 2.9 Although the power to amend fares is discretionary, once a review has been carried out and changes consulted upon the process must be completed and a decision taken. That decision could be that no changes are made.

- 2.10 The Act dictates that where objections are received, and not withdrawn they must be considered, and that any changes to the fares, come into effect within two months from the date of the end of the consultation.
- 2.11 Due to the number of objections, and differing views put forward by the trade, the decision was taken under delegated authority by the Strategic Director for Environment and Climate Change. The decision was to, as a temporary measure, implement the fares as consulted on and to commence an engagement exercise with the vehicle proprietors. The current temporary fare card can be found at **Appendix 2**. Therefore, in summary, the current fares are as follows:

Tariff	Start Price	10p	Waiting Time	Times
Tariff 1	£3.50	120 yards	10p per 24 seconds	6am – 8pm
Tariff 2	£4.00	98 yards	10p per 24 seconds	8pm – 6am
Tariff 3	£4.00	100 yards	10p per 24 seconds	6am – 8pm
Tariff 4	£4.50	86 yards	10p per 24 seconds	8pm – 6am

- 2.12 On 17th June 2022 a further consultation letter was circulated to all the hackney carriage vehicle proprietors, a copy of this letter can be found at **Appendix 3**.
- 2.13 The letter contains 8 proposals; these were proposals put forward by the trade during the first formal consultation with a request for the vehicle proprietor to pick their favoured proposal.
- 2.14 The council received 57 responses: -
- Proposal 1 = 17
 - Proposal 2 = 33
 - Proposal 3 = 0
 - Proposal 4 = 0
 - Proposal 5 = 0
 - Proposal 6 = 1
 - Proposal 7 = 0
 - Proposal 8 = 0
 - In addition, one respondent ticked both proposal 2 and proposal 4 and one respondent ticked all the proposals.
- 2.15 The service has now formally consulted a second time in relation to proposal 2 which, from the informal engagement, was supported by the majority of those consulted. That proposals were as follows: -

Tariff	Start Price	10p	Waiting Time	Times
Tariff 1	£3.50	105 yards	10p per 24 seconds	6am – 8pm
Tariff 2	£4.00	80 yards	10p per 24 seconds	8pm – 6am
Tariff 3	£5.50	70 yards	10p per 24 seconds	6am – 8pm
Tariff 4	£6.00	60 yards	10p per 24 seconds	8pm – 6am

2.16 The second consultation ended on Thursday 18th August 2022. A total of 4 representations have been received, 1 representation is in support of the proposed fare increase, 3 are objections to the proposed fare increase. These representations can be found at **Appendix 4**.

2.17 Therefore, members are asked to consider the objections and come to a decision about the proposed fare increase.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

One of the licensing services key priorities is to ensure the standards across the private hire and hackney carriage trade in Kirklees are high to protect the travelling public. We want people to be transported safely, to know they are protected from harm and that they experience a high quality, clean, sustainable, and green environment, as well as a good customer experience.

3.2 Working with Partners

In developing its policies and delivering its service the licensing service works with a number of partners including (not exclusively) Kirklees Safeguarding Children's and Adults boards, West Yorkshire Police, Public Health, Environmental Health, Overview and Scrutiny committee, the Community Safety Partnership and the other West Yorkshire Licensing Authorities (Inc. York)

3.3 Place Based Working

There is no specific impact in the context of this report. However, reviewing policies and procedures enables the service to examine the way in which it interacts and engages with licence holders, residents and communities.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

There is no impact in relation to climate change and air quality in this report.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

The Council has a duty to protect the travelling public and specifically safeguard the vulnerable, which includes the safeguarding of children travelling in licensed vehicles and for the purposes of school transport.

3.6 Financial Implications of people living or working in Kirklees

A high proportion of the hackney carriage vehicle proprietors are residents of Kirklees and an increase in the cost of living, i.e. the increased fuel costs, will be having a detrimental effect on the income of those persons driving the hackney carriage vehicles. Increasing the tariff will support proprietors to receive a fair return for the fares they undertake.

An increase in the fares of the hackney carriage vehicles will have an impact on the service users within Kirklees who are also likely to be residents of Kirklees as each journey will cost correspondingly more as the fare increases.

3.7 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions

Legal

No concerns regarding any legal issues arising.

Human Resources

There are no human resource issues related to this report.

4 Next steps and timelines

- 4.1 Members are asked to consider the proposed fare increase taking into consideration the representations received, shown at **Appendix 4**.
- 4.2 Consideration must be given to the representations and any changes to the fare must come into effect two months from the date of the end of the consultation.

5 Officer recommendations and reasons

- 5.1 Members are asked to consider the 3 options:
 - i. Increase the fare based on the proposal consulted upon, proposal 2
 - ii. Amend the proposed fare following consideration of the representations submitted
 - iii. Keep the fares as they are set at present, following the initial request from the trade

6 Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Councillor Will Simpson has no additional comments.

7 Contact officer

Fiona Goldsmith
Public Protection Group Leader – Licensing

01484 221000(ext 79921) or Fiona.goldsmith@kirklees.gov.uk

8 Background Papers and History of Decisions

None

9 Service Director responsible

Katherine Armitage
Service Director – Climate Change and Environment
Tel: 01484 221000
Email: Katherine.armitage@kirklees.gov.uk

Appendix 1



FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES (inclusive of VAT) from 18th August 2016

The following rates shall apply unless, at the start of hiring: **A FARE FOR THE JOURNEY IS AGREED BETWEEN HIRER AND DRIVER.**

THE TAXI METER WILL BE USED ON ALL JOURNEYS WITHIN KIRKLEES.

TARIFF 1	For hirings between 6am & 10pm if the distance does not exceed 600 yds or 120 sec. (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) For each additional 120 yds	£2.50 10p	TARIFF 2	For hirings between 10pm & 6am, if the distance does not exceed 600 yds or 146.9 sec. (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) For each additional 98 yards	£3.00 10p
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OTHER CHARGES: Waiting time is included in the tariff at a rate of 10p for each completed 24 second period. Luggage carried outside the passenger compartment 5p per item.

SURCHARGE: For hirings on Bank and Public Holidays Tariff 2, except for the following: Christmas and New Year. For the period between 6am on 24th December and 6am on 27th December and from 6pm on 31st

December to 6am on 2nd January, a supplement of £2 per journey may be added to Tariff 2, any such charge must be shown as an extra and incorporated on the meter.

SOILING CHARGE: A reasonable charge may be levied for restoration costs should you soil or damage this vehicle. The proprietor reserves the right to take civil action where necessary.

THIS TARIFF CARD TO BE CLEARLY DISPLAYED ON THE INTERNAL SIDE WINDOW AT ALL TIMES

COMPLAINTS/COMPLIMENTS RELATING TO THE DRIVER OR VEHICLE SHOULD BE MADE TO:

The Taxi Licensing Office Tel: (01484) 456 868

LICENCE NUMBER



FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES (inclusive of VAT) from 18th August 2016

The following rates shall apply unless, at the start of hiring: **A FARE FOR THE JOURNEY IS AGREED BETWEEN HIRER AND DRIVER.**

THE TAXI METER WILL BE USED ON ALL JOURNEYS WITHIN KIRKLEES.

TARIFF 1	For hirings between 6am & 10pm if the distance does not exceed 600 yds or 120 sec. (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) For each additional 120 yds	£2.50 10p	TARIFF 3	For hirings between 6am & 10pm, (including one surcharge of 50p per journey when carrying more than 4 passengers) If the distance does not exceed 600 yds or 144 sec (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) For each additional 100 yards	£3.00 10p
TARIFF 2	For hirings between 10pm & 6am, if the distance does not exceed 600 yds or 146.9 sec. (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) For each additional 98 yards	£3.00 10p	TARIFF 4	For hirings between 10pm & 6am, (including one surcharge of 50p per journey when carrying more than 4 passengers) If the distance does not exceed 600 yds or 167 sec (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) For each additional 86 yards	£3.50 10p

OTHER CHARGES: Waiting time is included in the tariff at a rate of 10p for each completed 24 second period. Luggage carried outside the passenger compartment 5p per item.

SURCHARGE: For hirings on Bank and Public Holidays Tariff 2 will apply to 4 seat vehicles, Tariff 4 will apply to vehicles with more than 4 seats except for the following: Christmas and New Year. For the period between 6am on 24th December and 6am on 27th December and from 6pm on 31st December to 6am on 2nd January,

a supplement of £2 per journey may be added to Tariff 2 and Tariff 4 as appropriate, any such charge must be shown as an extra and incorporated on the meter.

SOILING CHARGE: A reasonable charge may be levied for restoration costs should you soil or damage this vehicle. The proprietor reserves the right to take civil action where necessary.

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LICENCE NUMBER

Appendix 2



FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES

(inclusive of VAT) from 16th June 2022

The following rates shall apply unless, at the start of hiring: **A FARE FOR THE JOURNEY IS AGREED BETWEEN HIRER AND DRIVER.**

THE TAXI METER WILL BE USED ON ALL JOURNEYS WITHIN KIRKLEES.

TARIFF 1	For hirings between 6am & 8pm if the distance does not exceed 600 yds or 120 sec. (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) For each additional 120 yds	£3.50 10p
TARIFF 2	For hirings between 8pm & 6am, if the distance does not exceed 600 yds or 146.9 sec. (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) For each additional 98 yards	£4.00 10p

OTHER CHARGES: Waiting time is included in the tariff at a rate of 10p for each completed 24 second period. Luggage carried outside the passenger compartment 5p per item.

SURCHARGE: For hirings on Bank and Public Holidays Tariff 2, except for the following: Christmas and New Year. For the period between 6am on 24th December and 6am on 27th December and from 6pm on 31st

December to 6am on 2nd January, a supplement of £2 per journey may be added to Tariff 2, any such charge must be shown as an extra and incorporated on the meter.

SOILING CHARGE: A reasonable charge may be levied for restoration costs should you soil or damage this vehicle. The proprietor reserves the right to take civil action where necessary.

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COMPLAINTS/COMPLIMENTS RELATING TO THE DRIVER OR VEHICLE SHOULD BE MADE TO:

The Taxi Licensing Office Tel: (01484) 456 868

LICENCE NUMBER



FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES

(inclusive of VAT) from 16th June 2022

The following rates shall apply unless, at the start of hiring: **A FARE FOR THE JOURNEY IS AGREED BETWEEN HIRER AND DRIVER.**

THE TAXI METER WILL BE USED ON ALL JOURNEYS WITHIN KIRKLEES.

TARIFF 1	For hirings between 6am & 8pm if the distance does not exceed 600 yds or 120 sec. (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) For each additional 120 yds	£3.50 10p
TARIFF 2	For hirings between 8pm & 6am, if the distance does not exceed 600 yds or 146.9 sec. (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) For each additional 98 yards	£4.00 10p
TARIFF 3	For hirings between 6am & 8pm, (including one surcharge of 50p per journey when carrying more than 4 passengers) If the distance does not exceed 600 yds or 144 sec (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) For each additional 100 yards	£4.00 10p
TARIFF 4	For hirings between 8pm & 6am, (including one surcharge of 50p per journey when carrying more than 4 passengers) If the distance does not exceed 600 yds or 167 sec (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) For each additional 86 yards	£4.50 10p

OTHER CHARGES: Waiting time is included in the tariff at a rate of 10p for each completed 24 second period. Luggage carried outside the passenger compartment 5p per item.

SURCHARGE: For hirings on Bank and Public Holidays Tariff 2 will apply to 4 seat vehicles, Tariff 4 will apply to vehicles with more than 4 seats except for the following: Christmas and New Year. For the period between 6am on 24th December and 6am on 27th December and from 6pm on 31st December to 6am on 2nd January,

a supplement of £2 per journey may be added to Tariff 2 and Tariff 4 as appropriate, any such charge must be shown as an extra and incorporated on the meter.

SOILING CHARGE: A reasonable charge may be levied for restoration costs should you soil or damage this vehicle. The proprietor reserves the right to take civil action where necessary.

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LICENCE NUMBER

Appendix 3



Kirklees Council
Licensing Service
PO Box 1720
Huddersfield
HD1 6LG
Tel: 01484 221000
Website: www.kirklees.gov.uk
E-mail - licensing@kirklees.gov.uk

Our Ref:

Dear Licence Holder,

HACKENY CARRIAGE TARIFF INCREASE 2022

I am writing to you following the recent consultation into the proposed increase of the hackney carriage fares.

In March you received a letter notifying you that the trade representatives had submitted a request to the licensing service to increase the fees. The request was:

The current start prices and times are as follows: -

Tariff	Start Price	Times
Tariff 1	£2.50	6am – 10pm
Tariff 2	£3.00	10pm – 6am
Tariff 3	£3.00	6am – 10pm
Tariff 4	£3.50	10pm – 6am

The requested increase are as follows: -

Tariff	Start Price	Times
Tariff 1	£3.50	6am – 8pm
Tariff 2	£4.00	8pm – 6am
Tariff 3	£4.00	6am – 8pm
Tariff 4	£4.50	8pm – 6am

From the table above you can see there has been a £1 increase in the start prices across all the tariffs and, the times have changed on Tariff 2 and Tariff 4 from 10pm to 8pm as requested. The times have also had to be amended for Tariff 1 and Tariff 3 so there is not overlap of the times.

The consultation period was from Thursday 17th March 2022 and ended at midnight on Thursday 31st March 2022.

During this period, the licensing service received 18 responses and one petition to the consultation. Due to the number of objections and alternative proposals put forward the decision has been taken to implement the fare increased proposed as an interim measure, this will take effect immediately.

It is recognised that the cost of fuel is still going up and we would like to engage further with you to find an agreed alternative proposal. Once this has been established the licensing service will then consult on the agreed proposal.

The reason for this decision is that it will take time to engage and consult to find a proposal that the majority agrees on and implementing the initial proposal will be an increase from the existing tariff during the process.

We are aware that this is a difficult time for the trade, given increases in fuel prices and the 'cost of living crisis' may result in less fee paying passengers, however, we want to make sure that the tariff increases are right for you all, in line with a consensus view. We will complete the informal engagement and consultation as soon as possible. We anticipate that the final changes will be agreed by Autumn 2022.

Attached to this letter are all the proposals submitted to the licensing service, please take the time to read each proposal carefully. Once you have considered them please either return the slip at the bottom of the page or alternatively email licensing at licenisng@kirklees.gov.uk with your proposed option no later than 15th July 2022

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Goldsmith', written over a faint horizontal line.

Fiona Goldsmith
Group Leader – Licensing

Objection 1: -

Good afternoon licensing

Hope your well?

I'm wanting to put in an objection to the new tariffs proposed.

I'd like to thank licensing first for assisting our trade during these difficult times due to the cost of living, fuel increases and other cost which has crippled our trade just as we have started to get back to some sort of normality.

Licensing gave us a go ahead for our current fares which was a pound increase on all tariffs and also tariffs 2/4 to start at 8pm. We have been using these tariffs now for over a month and so.

The feedback I'm getting from drivers is that this increase is enough at the moment. Both drivers and our customers are happy.

The customers I've picked up and spoken too are also very happy with paying the current fare, but they have also said if it increases anymore, they would have to think twice before getting our taxis.

See we are in a delicate situation here, who would not like a price increase? Yet we need to balance it between keeping customers and also keeping earning a decent wage.

As a taxi driver of a hackney carriage 6-seater. I would not be comfortable charging the new proposed rates of tariff 3/4.

For example, on a night picking up 6 people from train station £6 start but by the time I got to ring road lights it would be roughly showing £8 (yards reduced too) and we still classed as being in town canter, I just can't justify that at all.

I've spoken to a lot of our hackney carriage trade and again I must stress that the current fares are ideal and working for the trade.

Fiona has said in future we would be discussing with the trade about the hackney carriage fares every year, I see this as a great idea as previously we have had fare increases after years.

I really hope you take my objection in to consideration

If you would like to discuss further, please contact me.

Objection 2: -

Good evening

Id like to put in a objection to the new proposed fares.

I believe the new fare proposed will effect our trade massively as the cost of living effects everyone including our customers.

If these fares go ahead we will lose alot of customers which we cant afford.

The temporary fares which were given to us are perfect for our trade.

Objection 3: -

Good evening

I would like to object to the fare proposal being consulted as it seems to be unfair to the paying customers.

The cost of living is going up. We're all getting hit somewhere and to a greater or lesser extent, people can afford it or not afford it but a lot of families are getting squeezed and that's very apparent when reading the news. The working wage is not going up in line with the cost of living. It would be unfair and an added burden on customers as well as drivers if after the price increase we lose business. We have to be careful not to "price ourselves" out of the competitive market as people have choices, such as private hire and Uber.

The interim fare structure is fair and has worked well and as fuel prices are dropping I would suggest to keep the interim fare and on a later date decide if any alternations are required to the fare.

Support 1: -

To whom it may concern

I would like to represent my proposal. I vote for the increased proposal and not the current prices.

I agree with the tariff increases yards reduced with the adjusted timings.