


Agenda Item No:	7	
Committee:	Licensing	
Date:	10 July 2024	
Report Title:	Proposed increase to current Hackney Carriage Vehicle Table of Fares	

Summary

- To approve the proposed increase of the Hackney Carriage Vehicle table of fares.

Key Issues

- There has been one request with support by others from the taxi trade for an increase to the tariff rate.
- The initial proposed tariff from the trade (option A), received 13 responses during the consultation period. Both option A and the responses can be seen at **Appendix A** to this report.
- Following discussion with the Licensing chairman and Portfolio Holder, it was agreed to formally discuss the tariff increase request and also to include an officer recommendation based on the original consultation responses.
- The officer recommendation which is option B also went out for a consultation with the trade. Both option B and the responses can be seen at **Appendix B** to this report
- The last table of fares increase was in 2022.

Recommendations

- The Licensing Committee to consider either option A or B for a taxi fare increase.
- Following any increase in the Taxi tariff, this would then be subject to a 14-day notice period in the newspaper.
- Any comments and/or objections raised from the public during this period would be presented to the Licensing Chairman and Portfolio Holder for them to consider and decide on the next steps.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference	

Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Sam Hoy, Portfolio holder with responsibilities for licensing shoy@fenland.gov.uk
Report Originator(s)	Andy Fox - Senior Licensing & Compliance Officer, 01354 602162, afox@fenland.gov.uk
Contact Officer(s)	Amy Brown, Assistant Director abrown@fenland.gov.uk Peter Catchpole, Corporate Director, 01354 654321, pcatchpole@fenland.gov.uk
Background Papers	Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 Part Two -

Report:

1 BACKGROUND AND INTENDED OUTCOMES

- 1.1 The Council has responsibility under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, for setting the maximum fares that can be charged by Hackney Carriage vehicles licensed to operate within the district.
- 1.2 Hackney Carriage (“Taxi”) fares are made up of an initial hiring charge and a “mileage” rate, both of which are expressed in terms of distance and/or time per unit cost. This is because when a hired taxi is stationary or moving slowly in traffic the meter continues charging, but by time, instead of distance.
- 1.3 The table of fares applies only to Hackney Carriage vehicles. Private Hire Operators can agree their hiring charges in advance with their customers at the time of booking the journey.
- 1.4 The current table of fares which was approved by Council on 12th May 2022 and is attached at **Appendix C**.
- 1.5 In February 2024 officers received written correspondence from a representative of the Fenland Taxi Trade, in which a request was put forward for the Council to consider increasing the current table of fares. In June 2024 it was decided to offer an Officers recommendation considering comments from the Option A consultation.
- 1.6 The Taxi Trade representative request is shown below alongside a list of the current fees and charges as Option A,
Option B is the suggested Officer alternative recommendation.
- 1.7 The Private Hire and Taxi Monthly (PHTM), a national taxi trade publication, produces a monthly league table of all UK Council hackney carriage fares. This league table shows that Fenland District Council’s current fare tariff (**Appendix C**), for a 2-mile journey, sits in 283rd place out of 341 licencing authorities listed.

- 1.8 When drawing comparisons between hackney carriage fares in different areas, the normal method used is to compare the cost of a 2-mile journey. Officers have researched and produced a table showing a comparison of the hackney carriage fares charged in neighbouring local authority areas for a 2-mile journey, which can be seen below:

Local Authority	2-mile fare - £	Last Increase	Ranked out of 341
Fenland	6.20	2022	283
Cambridge City	7.30	2022	134
South Cambs	7.30	2022	139
Huntingdonshire	8.30	2022	36
South Holland	6.30	2019	275
East Cambs	6.80	2022	198
Kings Lynn and WN	7.00	2022	176
Breckland	8.00	2022	58
Peterborough	6.00	2022	302

Using the table above and depending on which option is chosen, the below highlights where we would sit in the comparison table and neighbouring authority:

	2 mile - £	Rank
Current Fare	6.20	283
Option - A	6.80	218
Option - B	7.50	115
Nat Average	7.15	156

- 1.9 According to the AA, the cost of fuel has reduced, this is only one factor that members should consider when determining whether it is appropriate to vary the table of fares. Also, of relevance will be other general increases in the cost of living for hackney carriage proprietors.
- 1.10 According to the data compiled by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 3.0% in the 12 months to April 2024, down from 3.8% in the twelve months to March. Inflation is still predicted to rise in 2024 and expected to be around 2.2%.
- 1.11 According to the Bank of England's "Inflation Calculator" goods and services that cost £100 in 2024 would have cost £83.30 in 2021.

- 1.12 Fenland District Council has 145 Licensed Drivers of which 92 are Hackney Carriage Drivers.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Committee are asked to consider the information within this report, including the two options that have been set out, for the Council to vary and increase the current Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff.
- 2.2 When considering what is an appropriate amount to increase the current hackney carriage fare tariff by, information has been provided within this report to support the Committee in making an informed decision having regard to the taxi trade and that of paying customers.
- 2.3 Following any approval granted by the Licensing Committee, officers will ensure that the increase is properly advertised in a local Newspaper and if any issues arise from this then a further report would be presented to the Licensing Chairman and Portfolio Holder for them to consider and decide on the next steps.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Consultation has taken place in accordance with the regulations.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 This report presents two options for members to consider, they can also choose to take no action and the Taxi Tariff remains as it currently set.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Legal Implications

- 5.2 Section 65 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that a district council may fix the rates or fares within the district as well for time as distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the arrangements for the hire of a vehicle, to be paid in respect of the hire of hackney carriages by means of a table (hereafter in this section referred to as a "table of fares") made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section.
- 5.3 Section 65(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 goes onto state:
- a) When a district council make or vary a table of fares they shall publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district a notice setting out the table of fares or the variation thereof and specifying the period, which shall not be less than fourteen days from the date of the first publication of the notice,

within which and the manner in which objections to the table of fares or variation can be made.

b) A copy of the notice referred to in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall for the period of fourteen days from the date of the first publication thereof be deposited at the offices of the council which published the notice, and shall at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment.

5.4 If no objection to a table of fares or variation is duly made within the period specified in the notice referred to in section 65 (2), or if all objections so made are withdrawn, the table of fares or variation shall come into operation on the date of the expiration of the period specified in the notice or the date of withdrawal of the objection or, if more than one, of the last objection, whichever date is the later.

5.5 If objections are made and are not withdrawn, the district council must set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date, on which the table of fares shall come into force with or without modifications as decided by them after consideration of the objections.

5.6 Financial Implications

5.7 The costs of carrying out the required statutory consultation on the proposed variations and implementation of the Taxi tariff increase would be met by existing budgets held by Fenland District Council Licensing.

5.8 The cost of re-calibrating individual meters will be met by individual hackney carriage proprietors and the meters will then be checked by Licensing Officers as part of the compliance checks. This is a normal part of the work undertaken by Officers

5.9 Equality Implications

5.10 The Licensing Committee will ensure it has regard to the desirability of exercising its functions with regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and to increase equality of opportunity.

6.0 Social, Environmental and Economic Implications

6.1 This report has set out two options for Member's consideration and has acknowledged the increased costs that the taxi trade has faced in the last twelve months.

6.2 In addition, the report has identified the balance that is required to be struck by supporting our taxi trade and not exposing users of taxis to such an increase in fares, that would lead to journeys becoming too expensive, thus having social implications linked to a lack of social mobility, and economic implications by additional money having to be spent on transport.

6.3 Members should note that the tariff is the maximum permitted fare that can be charged, and that vehicle proprietors can choose to charge less should they wish. The tariff is only applicable to Hackney Carriages, and not Private Hire Vehicles.

7 SCHEDULES

APPENDIX A – Option from the Trade including consultation responses.

APPENDIX B – Option recommended by officers including consultation responses.

APPENDIX C – Current Table of fares

APPENDIX A

Shows Option A (Taxi Trade recommendation) and consultation responses.

TABLE OF FARES FARES FOR DISTANCE (inclusive of VAT) For vehicles carrying no more than 8 Passengers		Proposal – Option A	
Tariff 1: Between 07:00 – 23:00 Mon – Sat inclusive If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile) For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof	£4.00 £4.00 £0.20	Tariff 1: Between 07:00 – 23:00 Mon – Sat inclusive If the distance does not exceed 1289.48m for the whole distance If a distance exceeds 1289.48m first 1289.48m For each subsequent 139.43m or part thereof	£4.00 £4.00 £0.20
Tariff 2: Between 23:00 – 07:00 Mon – Sat inclusive & all-day Sundays If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile) For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof	£6.00 £6.00 £0.30	Tariff 2: Between 23:00 – 07:00 Mon – Sat inclusive & all-day Sundays If the distance does not exceed 1289.48m for the whole distance If a distance exceeds 1289.48m first 1289.48m For each subsequent 139.43m or part thereof	£6.00 £6.00 £0.30

<p>Tariff 3: to come into force from 18:00hrs for Public bank Holidays including Christmas, New Year Period</p> <p>If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance</p> <p>If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile)</p> <p>For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof</p>	<p>£8.00</p> <p>£8.00</p> <p>£0.40</p>	<p>Tariff 3: to come into force from 18:00hrs for Public bank Holidays including Christmas, New Year Period</p> <p>If the distance does not exceed 1289.48m for the whole distance</p> <p>If a distance exceeds 1289.48m first 1289.48m</p> <p>For each subsequent 139.43m or part thereof</p>	<p>£8.00</p> <p>£8.00</p> <p>£0.40</p>
<p>Waiting Time</p> <p>For each period of 114.2 seconds or part thereof</p>	<p>£0.40</p>	<p>Waiting Time</p> <p>For each period of 96 seconds or part thereof</p>	<p>£0.40</p>
<p>Extra Charges:</p> <p>For each person carried in excess of four (two children under 16 years old shall count as one person and children under the age of 3 years shall not be counted)</p>	<p>£0.50</p> <p>(Maximum charge of £2.00)</p>	<p>Extra Charges:</p> <p>For each person carried in excess of four (two children under 16 years old shall count as one person and children under the age of 3 years shall not be counted)</p>	<p>£1.00 per person in excess of 4 (maximum charge of £4.00)</p>
<p>Extra Charges: not calculated by taximeter</p> <p>For persons soiling the carriage resulting in cleaning of vehicle, the maximum sum of</p>	<p>£80.00</p>	<p>For persons soiling the carriage resulting in cleaning of vehicle, the maximum sum of</p>	<p>£80.00</p>
		<p>Extra Charges: No calculated by the taximeter</p> <p>Non Assistance Dogs</p>	<p>£2.00 per dog</p>

Option A – Consultation responses

For	Against	Comments
ü		Good afternoon, I would like to say that i am not opposed to an increase however i think the focus should be concentrated more on those who carry card machines for the convenience of the customer who lose a percentage per transaction. I am aware card readers are not compulsory but not having them cost the drivers a fare. However on a £4 fare the drivers are taking a real time pay cut once the card company takes a percentage. I would propose that a standard extra charge would be made for card payments as an incentive for drivers to use card machines.
		Since covid less people carry cash so drivers are forced to accept card or lose the job. I think a standard fee would help with this. All of my drivers agree. Thanks.
	ü	I personally think an increase in the taxes fare will be another nail in the coffin . So I am against an increase .
	ü	Hi .I consider that the current tariff is ok and does not need any changes. Thank you
ü		I am all for an increase in the taxi rates it isn't getting any cheaper with fuel and parts let alone vehicle maintenance costs let alone the insurance increases year after year Kind Regards
ü		I believe the first mile meter price should start at £5 up from what it currently stands at £4. Honestly, first mile £4 does not go far enough. The Fenland district towns are hardly even a mile long. Long journeys like 5 miles and above helps. Thank you for regarding the financial hardships.
		Not sure about increases but there should be a soilage charge for private hire taking school children, I have had blackcurrant drink spilt on back seats and now have had chocolate slarred on seats ,parents should pay for cleaning
ü		As I said, last time, I believe the tariff should be 50% of the tariff if carrying more than four passengers. The extra pound does not go far enough to cover. If you're taking eight passengers over to Peterborough, the extra cost for the vehicle, the extra fuel, the extra in the insurance , the pound per person, does not go far enough.
ü		Morning, I am for the proposal for the tariff increase.
ü		Wonderful news it's a hard living out there since Covid ruined my business. Get them put up the last rise put my fair up £2 on a ten mile journey. That did not cover how much fule had gone up since the meters were first introduced,never mind how insurance and fees have gone up. A Hackney Carriage fair is a luxury. Its a door to door service witch a bus and train can't offer and there is no help for us in subsidies from the Government. Never mind the state of the roads. Hope this helps

ü		Good morning. I've had a look at the proposed taxi tariff increase and I am definitely in favour of this. Thank you.
ü		Yes i am all for the new tariff,thanks
ü		I still think that the cost of a minibus should be more. To transport 5 people you would normally have to have 2 taxis therefore double the cost. Using a minibus for 5 people for 2 miles would be £6.20 per car therefore £12.40. A minibus would be less than £7 therefore we lose out. We should be able to have a charge of 1 1/2 time on any metered journey because for all the extra costs of a minibus higher insurance, fuel costs etc.
ü		Yes, please proceed.
ü		Good Afternoon i am for the price increase for the tariffs. As just only this year my car insurance has gone by £800. And fuel is increasing daily. For us to maintain and survive in this trade. And the living cost rising. You should consider all sides. Thank you.

Appendix B

Shows Option B (officers' recommendation)

<p style="text-align: center;">TABLE OF FARES FARES FOR DISTANCE (inclusive of VAT) For vehicles carrying no more than 8 Passengers</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Proposal – Option B</p>	
<p>Tariff 1: Between 07:00 – 23:00 Mon – Sat inclusive</p> <p>If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance</p> <p>If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile)</p> <p>For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof</p>	<p>£4.00</p> <p>£4.00</p> <p>£0.20</p>	<p>Tariff 1: Between 07:00 – 20.00 Mon – Sat inclusive</p> <p>If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance</p> <p>If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile)</p> <p>For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof</p>	<p>£4.20</p> <p>£4.20</p> <p>£0.30</p>
<p>Tariff 2: Between 23:00 – 07:00 Mon – Sat inclusive & all-day Sundays</p> <p>If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance</p> <p>If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile)</p> <p>For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof</p>	<p>£6.00</p> <p>£6.00</p> <p>£0.30</p>	<p>Tariff 2: Between 20.00 – 07:00 Mon – Sat inclusive & all-day Sundays</p> <p>If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance</p> <p>If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile)</p> <p>For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof</p>	<p>£6.20</p> <p>£6.20</p> <p>£0.40</p>
<p>Tariff 3: to come into force from 18:00hrs for Public bank Holidays including Christmas, New Year Period</p> <p>If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance</p>	<p>£8.00</p>	<p>Tariff 3: to come into force from 18:00hrs for Public bank Holidays including Christmas, New Year Period</p> <p>If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance</p>	<p>£8.20</p>

If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile)	£8.00	If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile)	£8.20
For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof	£0.40	For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof	£0.50
Waiting Time For each period of 114.2 seconds or part thereof	£0.40	Waiting Time For each period of 114.2 seconds or part thereof	£0.50
Extra Charges: For each person carried in excess of four (two children under 16 years old shall count as one person and children under the age of 3 years shall not be counted)	£0.50 (Maximum charge of £2.00)	Extra Charges: For each person carried in excess of four (two children under 16 years old shall count as one person and children under the age of 3 years shall not be counted)	£1.50 per person in excess of 4 (maximum charge of £6.00)
Extra Charges: not calculated by taximeter For persons soiling the carriage resulting in cleaning of vehicle, the maximum sum of	£80.00	Extra Charges: not calculated by taximeter For persons soiling the carriage resulting in cleaning of vehicle, the maximum sum of	£80.00
		Extra Charges: No calculated by the taximeter Non Assistance Dogs	£2.00 per dog

Option 2 – Officer Recommendation - responses

For	Against	Comments
ü		Hi Andy and staff bring us up to around the national average would be great kind regards
	ü	I am emailing to object to the price increase for taxis. The price increase is unwanted and unnecessary. The taxi trade in March is dwindling very quickly over the last few years. With Covid then the credit crunch and now the travesty that is happening to the town centre a price increase that is way above the inflation rate at this time is stupid and unwarranted.
	ü	I am against this increase, the people of March don't use taxis now as they are too expensive and there is an explosion of unlicensed vehicles working through face book that are benefitting from our high prices already. This is a stupid price hike that isn't needed at all at this time. Also I must express a feeling that this is being bought in to favour *****and is to try to ring taxis as expensive as *** fairs are for *** private hire vehicles and this shouldn't be allowed to be forced upon us.
ü		Happy to go with officer recommendation
ü		Happy to go with officer recommendation as is my wife
ü		Happy to go with Officer recommendations. Option B



Fenland District Council

TABLE OF FARES
FARES FOR DISTANCE
(Inclusive of VAT)

For vehicles carrying no more than
8 Passengers

Fenland District Council resolved on 12th May 2022 for the following table below of maximum fares to come into force.

<p>Tariff 1: Between 07:00 – 23:00 Mon – Sat inclusive</p> <p>If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance</p> <p>If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile)</p> <p>For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof</p>	<p>£4.00</p> <p>£4.00</p> <p>£0.20</p>
<p>Tariff 2: Between 23:00 – 07:00 Mon – Sat inclusive and all day Sundays</p> <p>If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance</p> <p>If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile)</p> <p>For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof</p>	<p>£6.00</p> <p>£6.00</p> <p>£0.30</p>
<p>Tariff 3: For Public Bank Holidays including Christmas, New Year Period and to come into force from 18:00hrs for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve</p> <p>If the distance does not exceed 1609m (one mile) for the whole distance</p> <p>If a distance exceeds 1609m (one mile), first 1609m (one mile)</p> <p>For each subsequent 146.2m (1/11 mile) or part thereof</p>	<p>£8.00</p> <p>£8.00</p> <p>£0.40</p>
<p>Waiting Time</p> <p>For each period of 114.2 seconds or part thereof</p>	<p>£0.40</p>
<p>Extra Charges</p> <p>For each person carried in excess of four (two children under 16 years old shall count as one person and children under the age of 3 years shall not be counted)</p>	<p>£0.50 (Max. charge of £2.00)</p>
<p>Extra Charges: Not calculated by taximeter</p> <p>For persons soiling the carriage resulting in cleaning of vehicle, the maximum sum of</p>	<p>£80.00</p>