

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee

Date **22 September 2015**

Report of: **Director of Community**

Subject: **REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES**

SUMMARY

Each year the views of the taxi trade are sought in respect of whether they wish the Council to consider an increase to the taxi tariff. The last time the trade indicated they wanted a tariff increase was in 2008, and the matter was considered by the Committee at that time and an increase was granted. In July this year a newsletter was sent to the taxi trade, which sought their view on whether they wished to have an increase to the taxi tariff and gave an illustration of an increase proposed by the Hackney Carriage Association.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is requested to consider the increase proposed by the Hackney Carriage Association and consider if an increase is appropriate and make a recommendation to the Executive in respect of the level of taxi tariff.

INTRODUCTION

1. Each year the taxi trade are consulted in respect of the level of taxi tariff. The last time the trade indicated they wanted a tariff increase following consultation was in 2008, and the matter was considered by the Committee at that time and an increase was granted.
2. Last year no increase was requested; however, the issue of charges for credit card payments was raised. It was agreed at Committee on 20 January 2015 that there should be no reference to charges for paying by credit or debit card included on the tariff card at that time.
3. On 29 June this year an email from Paul Rogerson of the Hackney Carriage Association was received (Appendix A), with proposed changes to the tariff.
4. The first change proposed was a change to the cost of carrying luggage. Instead of 'For each article of luggage carried outside of the passenger compartment - 10p', it was proposed to change to '**A charge of 50p will be made when luggage is carried outside of the passenger compartment**'. This will mean a change of 50p regardless of the amount of luggage carried.
5. The second proposal was to change the fee for fouling a vehicle from 'A Maximum charge of £45 may be made against any person fouling the vehicle' to '**A Maximum charge of £70 may be made against any person fouling the vehicle or allowing an animal to foul the vehicle**'.
6. In July this year a newsletter was sent to the taxi trade (Appendix B) to consult upon the taxi tariff. The proposal of the Association was put forward and the Trade were asked to let us know if they agreed or disagreed or would like to propose something else. No responses were received.
7. There are currently 213 Hackney Carriage vehicles licensed in the Borough, 206 licensed Hackney Carriage drivers and 120 Dual Licensed Drivers.

INDICES

8. Since the last tariff increase in September 2008, average earnings have remained fairly static, whilst motoring and other travel costs have increased significantly. Inflation is currently around 0.1% and has varied between 0% and 4% year on year since 2008.

RECOMMENDATION

9. Members are asked to review the fares comparison spread sheet (Appendix C) and consider whether to recommend an increase in the tariff. Also included in Appendix C are some example increases in order to further assist members
10. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

CONCLUSION

11. That members consider the information contained in the report when making their decision regarding the level of Fareham Taxi Tariff.

Background Papers: None

Reference Papers: None

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Helen Spires (Ext 4411).

APPENDIX A – Email content from Paul Rogerson

APPENDIX B – Taxi Trade Newsletter July 2015

APPENDIX C – Fares Comparison Spread sheet and examples of Increase to tariff

Sarah,

At the last meeting of our Association on Tuesday, 9th June 15 the membership discussed and voted on whether they want a tariff increase:-

The decision was that-

- A. The meeting voted to remain on 190m for the pull off of £2.20 and to continue with 20p for each succeeding 190m.
- B. No change in the waiting time of 20p for each 60secs.
- C. No change to the Rate 2 or 3 increases nor to the times that they are implemented.
- D. No change on the Station surcharge.
- E. Proposal accepted by the meeting to change the Extra Charges that apply to 'For each article of luggage carried outside of the passenger compartment - 10p' to read '**A charge of 50p will be made when luggage is carried outside of the passenger compartment**'. (One piece of luggage or ten pieces of luggage would have a min/max charge of 50p).
- F. Proposal accepted by the meeting to apply to change from 'A Maximum charge of £45 may be made against any person fouling the vehicle' to '**A Maximum charge of £70 may be made against any person fouling the vehicle or allowing an animal to foul the vehicle**'.

The meeting agreed that if it is more convenient, these increases be applied for at the same time as Ian and you review the Hackney Carriage Licensing Conditions. If acceptable I will formally ask for these changes when Ian and you discuss the changes to the conditions.

Many thanks,

Paul Rogerson

Vice Chairperson of the Fareham Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Association.

July 2015
Issue: 43

Taxi & Private Hire News

Tariff

It is the time of year when the Trade has to decide whether or not to request a tariff change. The Association has proposed the following:

- A. The meeting voted to remain on 190m for the pull off of £2.20 and to continue with 20p for each succeeding 190m.
- B. No change in the waiting time of 20p for each 60secs.
- C. No change to the Rate 2 or 3 increases nor to the times that they are implemented.
- D. No change on the Station surcharge.
- E. Proposal accepted by the meeting to change the Extra Charges that apply to 'For each article of luggage carried outside of the passenger compartment - 10p' to read '**A charge of 50p will be made when luggage is carried outside of the passenger compartment**'. (One piece of luggage or ten pieces of luggage would have a min/max charge of 50p).
- F. Proposal accepted by the meeting to apply to change from 'A Maximum charge of £45 may be made against any person fouling the vehicle' to '**A Maximum charge of £70 may be made against any person fouling the vehicle or allowing an animal to foul the vehicle**'.

If you agree with what is being proposed, or would like to propose something different, or do not want a change, please let us know either by email to licensing@fareham.gov.uk or by post to: Licensing Team, Fareham Borough Council, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham PO16 7AZ.

Considerate Driving

We have received a complaint from someone who lives in Duncan Road. She states that the taxis who are coming from the train station are coming round a blind bend at considerable speed and nearly causing accidents.

Please be considerate to other road users especially in built up areas where people may be trying to get on/off their drives.

Dual Drivers

All dual drivers need to have an operator's licence or be working for a company that has one.

Running Engines

Please turn off engines when on the rank or waiting for a fare as much as possible.

Equality and Human Rights Commission

If you feel you are being discriminated against for any reason the Equality and Human Rights Commission is there to help you. They can be contacted for advice and guidance. The number for the helpline is 0845 604 6610.

Contact Us

If you have any comments regarding this newsletter, ideas for subjects to be covered or any other issue regarding taxis, private hire or related matters please contact us by email at regulatory@fareham.gov.uk or by phone on 01329 236100.

Further information regarding Taxi and Private Hire can be found on our website at www.fareham.gov.uk

Abolition of the Counterpart

We can now check driving licences on-line either by you providing us with a code or coming into the Civic Offices and sitting with us whilst we do it.

Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence> to see how this is done.

As we will not be employing a company to check your licence we are able to pass on the £5.75 saving.

We still need you to come in 5 or more working days before your badge expires to give us time to make it.

If you have already received your renewal paperwork please cross through the DP20 line on the receipt before you pay.

Times given if you require a DBS or medical still apply.

Drop-Off Point

It has been agreed that Hackney vehicles can have a drop off point in the town centre.

This is going to be at the top of the rank which is currently marked with double yellow lines. Drivers will be able to come up the side of the rank, drop off and pull off either to go to their next job or to join the rear of the rank.

This area is double yellow lined at the moment to allow space for Wilkinsons lorries to manoeuvre. As this will be a drop off point only (and parking or picking up will not be allowed in any circumstances) it should not cause any inconvenience.

This new drop off point will be available in the Autumn. Please do not drop off here until road markings have been completed.



True Vision launches free Hate Crime App for smartphones

The free downloadable app works alongside the full web facility at www.report-it.org.uk.

The App can give basic information about what a hate crime is and can link directly to an online facility to report hate crime and incidents directly to the police force where the crime took place.

Users can also share the app with friends by email and sms

Taxi Tariff Comparison

| DISTRICT | NUMBER OF MILES | 6 |
|--------------------|--|-------|
| | | £ |
| SOUTHAMPTON | Pull off £2.80 for first 110 metres 20p each 110 metres thereafter until distance travelled of 330 metres 20p each 195 thereafter | 12.76 |
| PORTSMOUTH | Pull off £2.20 for the first 274 metres (or 51.43 seconds) 20p each 182.88 metres until fare reaches £12.60 20p each 141.73 metres thereafter | 12.46 |
| GOSPORT | Pull off £2.20 for first 199 metres 20p each 178 metres thereafter | 12.80 |
| FAREHAM (EXISTING) | Pull off £2.20 for first 190 metres 20p each 190 metres thereafter | 12.20 |

Examples of effect of different increases to tariff

| | NUMBER OF MILES | 6 |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------|
| | | £ |
| FAREHAM EXISTING | Pull off £2.20 for first 190 metres 20p each 190 metres thereafter | 12.20 |
| FAREHAM (reduced distance1) | Pull off £2.20 for the first 190 metres 20p each 185 metres thereafter | 12.44 +1.7% |
| FAREHAM (reduced distance2) | Pull off £2.20 for first 190 metres 20p each 180 metres thereafter | 12.72 +4.3% |
| FAREHAM CONSULTATION RESPONSE | Pull off £2.40 for the first 190 metres 20p each 190 metres thereafter | 12.40 +1.6% |

NB The percentage increase in fare decreases as the journey length increases.