

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 2 November 2015

Portfolio:	Public Protection
Subject:	Review of Hackney Carriage Fares
Report of:	Head of Environmental Health
Strategy/Policy:	
Corporate Objective:	A Safe and Healthy Place to Live and Work

Purpose:

To set the level of Hackney Carriage Tariff for licensed vehicles in the Borough.

Executive 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. Following a request for an amended tariff by the Fareham Hackney Carriage Association earlier 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 also informed of the increase proposed by the Hackney Carriage Association. Apart from the Association proposal no other comments or proposals were received. This matter was considered by the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee at its meeting on 22nd September 2015, the Committee resolved to recommend the changes put forwarded by the Hackney Carriage Association to the Executive when setting the level of tariff.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

That the Executive agrees to amend the current Hackney Carriage tariff so that:

- (a) there is a standard charge for any luggage carried outside the passenger compartment of 50p; and
- (b) the maximum charge for fouling a vehicle be increased to £70.

Reason:

The tariff was last increased in 2008 and the request from the Hackney Carriage Association on this occasion is relatively modest in that they have only requested the following two increases:-

- (a) 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; and
- (b) 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**'.

Cost of proposals:

The only cost attached to this proposal is the cost of the statutory advertisement to advertise the change to the tariff and invite comment.

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	2 November 2015
Subject:	Review of Hackney Carriage Fares
Briefing by:	Head of Environmental Health
Portfolio:	Public Protection

INTRODUCTION

1. Each year the taxi trade is consulted in respect of the level of taxi tariff. The last time the trade indicated it 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 -0.1% and has varied between -0.1% and 4% year on year since 2008.
9. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

CONCLUSION

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

Background Papers: None

Reference Papers: None

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Ian Rickman (Ext 4473).

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

APPENDIX A

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

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

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.

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%

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