

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee

Date **27 September 2016**

Report of: **Head of Environmental Health**

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 May this year a letter was sent to the taxi trade, which sought their view on whether they wished to have an increase to the taxi tariff. We did not receive any individual responses from the trade. The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Association (HCPHA) contacted us on 2nd June with results of a vote they had taken where a majority had declined an increase but 2 other changes were put forward.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is requested to consider the responses from the HCPHA in respect of the level of tariff and two further considerations. Consider if a change is appropriate and make a recommendation to the Executive in respect of these changes and 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. In 2015 the trade did not request a change in the fares but asked for two other changes to the tariff which were both granted.
3. The first was a change to the cost of carrying luggage. Instead of 10p for article of luggage carried outside of the passenger compartment, 'a charge of 50p will be made when luggage is carried outside of the passenger compartment'.
4. The second was a change to the fee for fouling a vehicle from £45 to £70.
5. In May this year a letter was sent to the taxi trade covering several topics and to consult upon the taxi tariff. We did not receive any response to this letter. ([Appendix A](#)).
6. In June we received an email from Mr Paul Rogerson of the HCPHA regarding a vote the Association had taken in regard to a tariff increase. The result was that 113 written votes were received (voting slips or e-mails) with 68 voting for no increase and 45 voting for an increase. Those attending the meeting also voted in favour of no change to the "pull off" or "distance covered". ([Appendix B](#)).
7. The meeting of the Association did request two changes to the tariff:
 - (a) A change in the fee for picking up at Fareham Station - 'Passengers picked up at Fareham Station' be changed from 60p and replaced with £1. The current cost to drivers for a station permit is £376, this has risen from £228 in 2012.

1st Jan 16 - 31st Dec 16 =	£376
1st Jan 15 - 31st Dec 15 =	£311
1st Jan 14 - 31st Dec 14 =	£296
1st Jan 13 - 31st Dec 13 =	£251
1st Jan 12 - 31st Dec 12 =	£228
 - (b) That the statement 'For each dog (except assistance dogs) 10p' be removed from the tariff card completely.
 - (c) If the Committee are minded to grant (b) above it may wish to consider adding the following wording: "Assistance dogs must be carried free of charge unless the driver has a current exemption in place to do so". (Licensing Manager)
8. There are currently 219 Hackney Carriage vehicles licensed in the Borough, 199 licensed Hackney Carriage drivers and 118 Dual Licensed Drivers.

INDICES

9. Average weekly earnings in real terms have remained static as shown in the table below, these are statistics adjusted for consumer price inflation.

Sep-08	£	Index	£	Index
Sep-08	349	115.9	372	117.3
Sep-09	350	116.2	372	117.0
Sep-10	347	115.1	368	116.0
Sep-11	336	111.3	356	112.1
Sep-12	334	110.7	354	111.5
Sep-13	328	108.7	348	109.6
Sep-14	329	109.3	350	110.1
Sep-15	336	111.5	357	112.5
Jun-16	341	113.3	363	114.2

10. Motoring and other travel costs have increased significantly since 2008, although the rate of increase over the most recent year is in line with other inflation indices, having reduced and increased again very slightly.
11. Consumer price inflation is currently at 0.6%.
12. The Committee is reminded that Environmental Health and Licensing is provided by The Fareham and Gosport Environmental Health Partnership. There is an opportunity to explore the possibility of aligning fees and charges and such things as the taxi tariff between the two authorities in time, however, meaningful discussions to explore this have not yet taken place. Therefore this cannot be progressed at present.

RECOMMENDATION

13. Members are asked to review the fares comparison spread sheet ([Appendix D](#)) and consider whether to recommend an increase in the tariff. Also included in Appendix D are some example increases in order to further assist members

RISK ASSESSMENT

14. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report

CONCLUSION

15. 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 - [Letter to Trade consulting on Tariff.](#)

APPENDIX B – [Email from Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Association](#)

APPENDIX C – [Current Tariff Card](#)

APPENDIX D – [Fares Comparison Spreadsheet and examples of increase to tariff.](#)