

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee

Date **25 July 2022**

Report of: **Head of Environmental Health**

Subject: **REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE TARIFF**

SUMMARY

The current taxi tariff came into force in February 2019. This matter was considered by the Committee at the time and an increase was granted. In May this year, a consultation was undertaken with the trade and the public regarding our current Taxi Tariff. This consultation gave options on a potential taxi tariff increase. The details of the consultation and outcome are detailed within this report.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Licensing & Regulatory Affairs Committee:

- (a) considers the responses received from the consultations;
- (b) considers if a change is appropriate; and
- (c) makes a recommendation to the Executive in that respect together with the Tariff Card update suggested in paragraph 16.

INTRODUCTION

1. Private Hire and Hackney Carriage licensing is a function of the Licensing Committee. Hackney Carriages can be hailed in the street and also work from the town ranks. Hackney Carriages must be fitted with a tariff meter the level of tariff is set by the Council and is an Executive function. The purpose of this report is for this Committee to make a recommendation to the Executive as to whether the current tariff should be changed and if so, what that change should be.
2. The current tariff for Fareham Borough Council licensed Hackney Carriages was last reviewed in 2018 and implemented in February 2019.
3. In May 2022 we issued a consultation to the trade and the public which sought views on the level of tariff.
4. In summary, the current tariff rate is £2.40 for getting in the car and the first 180 meters travelled. An additional 20p is then charged for every 180 meters travelled after that, a 5 km journey would cost £7.77. The current taxi tariff is shown at Appendix A.
5. To serve as a comparison, the current tariff for Gosport, Eastleigh and Havant Borough Councils is available at Appendix B.
6. There are currently 139 Hackney Carriage vehicles licensed in the Borough, 114 licensed Hackney Carriage drivers and 55 Dual Licensed Drivers. There are 140 Hackney Carriage Vehicles.

CONSULTATION

7. On 16 May 2022 a public and trade consultation was launched, in which four options were given for tariff increases. Both the trade and public were asked to rate each of the four tariff proposals set out from most preferred to least preferred. They were also given an opportunity to propose any different options of their own. The options given are shown below:-
 - i) Option 1: £2.80 pull off, 170 meters 30p. 5km journey would cost £11.62
 - ii) Option 2: £3.00 pull off, 170 meters 20p. 5km journey would cost £8.88
 - iii) Option 3: £3.00 pull off, 160 meters 20p. 5km journey would cost £9.25.
 - iv) Option 4: £2.60 pull off, 155 meters 20p. 5km journey would cost £9.06.
8. The survey results for the trade can be found at Appendix C, which show that the most favourable option, at 56% (34 votes) is option 1.
9. The survey results for the public can be found at Appendix D, which demonstrates that the most favourable option, at 80% (70 votes) is option 4.
10. In addition to the above the Fareham Hackney Carriage Association has independently canvassed its members and their preference was Option 2.

INDICES

11. Average Weekly Earnings in real terms (adjusted for consumer price inflation and seasonality):

| AWE: Whole Economy Real Terms Level (Â£): Seasonally Adjusted Regular Pay | | |
|--|----------------------|---|
| Year | Real AWE (2015) £ | Real AWE (Index numbers 2015=100) |
| 2015 | 454 | 100 |
| 2016 | 460 | 101.4 |
| 2017 | 458 | 101.2 |
| 2018 | 461 | 101.8 |
| 2019 | 470 | 103.5 |
| 2020 | 475 | 104.2 |
| 2021 | 487 | 107.8 |
| 2022 Q1 | 482 | 108.5 |

12. RPI All Items: Percentage change over 12 months

April 2022: 11.1% released 18th May 2022

13. Consumer price inflation is currently at 9.0%.

14. Information from the Office of National Statistics states: "In the most recent Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) data (16 to 27 March 2022), 87% of adults reported their cost of living had increased compared with 62% in November (3 to 14 November 2021)."

15. Between 16 March and 27 March 2022, the most common reasons reported by adults for increased cost of living were an increase in:

- The price of food shopping (88%)
- Gas or electricity bills (83%)
- The price of my fuel (77%)

TARIFF CARD UPDATE

16. Following some complaints from customers, we would also like to update the tariff card with the following:

CARD PAYMENT: Some Taxis accept credit or debit cards. No extra charge may be made for using this method of payment.

NOTE: Any toll or congestion charge shall not be added to the fare.

RISK ASSESSMENT

17. Since the tariff has not been increased since 2019 and given the recent considerable rise in fuel and the general cost of living, there is a risk that drivers will leave the trade to find alternative employment which would leave a shortage of taxis in Fareham which could leave vulnerable people at risk.

CONCLUSION

18. Members are asked to review the information contained above and, in the appendices, and consider whether to recommend an increase in the tariff.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Current Tariff

Appendix B – Tariff Comparison

Appendix C – License Holder consultation results

Appendix D – Public Consultation results

Background Papers: None

Reference Papers: None

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