

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 05 September 2022

Portfolio:	Health and Public Protection
Subject:	Review of Hackney Carriage Tariff
Report of:	Director of Leisure and Community
Corporate Priorities:	Strong, safe, inclusive and healthy communities

Purpose:

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

Executive summary:

Earlier this year, the taxi trade approached the Council's Licensing Department seeking an increase to the Hackney Carriage Tariff. Although Licensing generally is a non-Executive function and matters are dealt with by the Licensing Committee, the setting of the tariff is an Executive function.

Following the approach by the taxi trade, a consultation was undertaken with both the public, taxi vehicle owners and local taxi drivers, setting out four different options. In addition to this, the Fareham Hackney Carriage Association independently canvassed its members on the consultation options.

This matter was considered by the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs committee on 25 July 2022, and their recommendations on both the level of tariff and additional wording, to add clarity are included in this report.

It is therefore proposed that the tariff be increased as detailed in the recommendation below.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

It is recommended that the Executive agrees the following changes to the Hackney Carriage Tariff:

- (a) the Hackney Carriage Tariff be increased to £3.00 pull off plus 20p for each succeeding 170 metres;
- (b) the Tariff Card be updated to state that no extra fee may be charged for payments received by card; and
- (c) the Tariff Card be updated to state that any toll or congestion charge may be added to the fare.

Reason:

The recommendations are as proposed by the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee to the Executive as follows:

Recommendation (a) was the preferred option of the Hackney Carriage Association resulting from the consultation exercise;

Recommendations (b) and (c) were felt necessary so that it is clear to the passenger which additional charges may be levied.

Cost of proposals:

Cost of Statutory Advertisement in local press to notify of tariff change.

Appendices:

A: Current Tariff

B: Tariff Comparison

Background papers: None

Reference papers: Licensing & Regulatory Affairs Committee Report - Review of Hackney Carriage Fares 25 July 2022.

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	05 September 2022
Subject:	Review of Hackney Carriage Tariff
Briefing by:	Director of Leisure and Community
Portfolio:	Health and Public Protection

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 being set by the Council, which is an Executive function. The purpose of this report is to enable the Executive to determine the level at which the tariff should be set.
2. From time to time the taxi trade may request that the Council consider an increase to the current taxi tariff. Earlier this year the taxi trade approached the Licensing department to seek a tariff increase. The tariff was last reviewed in 2018 and a new tariff set by the Executive in February 2019. The current tariff can be seen at Appendix A.
3. A comparison of other Local Authorities current tariffs can be seen at Appendix B.

CONSULTATION

4. On 16 May 2022 a public and taxi trade consultation was launched, in which four options were proposed for consideration for tariff increases. Both the taxi trade and the 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 that were proposed 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.
5. The survey results for the taxi trade showed that the most favourable option, at 56% (34 votes) was option 1.

6. The survey results for the public showed that the most favourable option, at 80% (70 votes) was option 4.
7. In addition to the above, the Fareham Hackney Carriage Association has independently canvassed its members and their preference was Option 2.

LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

8. This matter was considered by the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee on 25 July 2022, and they made recommendations to the Executive on the level of tariff and included some additional wording to add clarity on certain additional charges.
9. At that meeting the Committee received a detailed representation from the Fareham Hackney Carriage Association, before debating the matter and making the following recommendations to the Executive in respect of the level of tariff: -

RESOLVED that, having considered the responses received from the consultation, the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee:

- (a) considers that an increase in the Hackney Carriage Tariff is appropriate; and
- (b) recommends to the Executive that:
 - i. the Hackney Carriage Tariff be increased to £3.00 pull off plus 20p for each succeeding 170 metres;
 - ii. the Tariff Card be updated to state that no extra charge may be made for making payments by card; and
 - iii. the Tariff Card be updated to state that any toll or congestion charge may be added to the fare.

CONCLUSION

10. The Executive is asked to consider the information contained within the report and appendices A and B when making their decision in setting the level of Fareham Taxi Tariff and to approve the changes to the tariff recommended by the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee detailed in paragraph 9.
11. Should the Executive agree to amend the tariff, a statutory consultation on that tariff must be undertaken. The proposed tariff must be published in a local newspaper and be available for inspection at the Council offices and the published notice must explain how objections can be made along with the time period in which those representations can be made.
12. The time period for objections must be at least 14 days from the first date of publication. If no objections are submitted, the revised tariff shall come into force at that time.
13. If objections are made and not withdrawn, then they will be referred to the Executive for consideration. Timescales for that consideration are tight, however, any amended table must be adopted after consideration of objections within two months of the date it would otherwise have come into force had there been no objection.
14. The decision, therefore, and as set out in the recommendation to this report, would be

to adopt the tariff as recommended by the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee subject to the requirements of the Statutory consultation requirements.

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