

Subject: First Class Hackney Carriage Fares

Report to: Licensing Committee

Date: 22 October, 2018

Report by: Licensing Manager

**SUBJECT MATTER AND DECISIONS REQUIRED:**

**This report asks Members to consider a request from a local taxi firm for a hackney carriage fare increase.**

**Recommendation: Members are asked to approve one of the following options:**

- 1) That the proposed fare increase be approved in principle subject to results of the formal advertising process**
- 2) That the proposed fare increase not be approved**

**1. Background:**

- 1.1 Local authorities have a power to set/vary fares for hackney carriages under section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous provisions) Act 1976. This usually happens upon request from the taxi trade as it is felt that they are best placed to know whether their business can withstand any increase. The current table of fares is attached Appendix 1 and was set in 2013.
- 1.2 A request has been received for a fare increase from a local taxi firm. This is shown as Appendix 2 and contains their rationale for change.

**2. Proposals and consultations**

- 2.1 As a result of this letter, the proposal was sent to all current plate holders and drivers to enable them to have the opportunity to comment, make any observation or objection to the proposal. One objection letter was received from a driver, who felt that the price increase was unnecessary at this time. (the full letter is attached as Appendix 3)
- 2.2 No other comments were received.

### 3. Proposed Fare increase

- 3.1 The proposals would equate to the following fare increase based over one mile (1760 yards).

<b>Tariff</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Tariff One	£1.20p
Tariff Two	£0.75p
Tariff Three	£1.05p
Tariff Four	£0.65p

- 3.2 To help Members put this into context attached are examples of journeys showing the existing and proposed fares (See Appendix 4).
- 3.3 Fare tariffs from other Local Councils in the Eastern region are also attached to see how the proposed increase compares to other authorities (See Appendix 5).
- 3.4 If Committee approves in principle the fare increase, the new fares will have to be formally advertised in the local press to see if there any objections to the proposals. If objections are received within the objection period, the Council may consider these and have the discretion to make any modifications as they see fit. If no objections are received, the fares will come into effect after the expiry of the objection period.

#### **Recommendation:**

**Members are asked to approve one of the following options:**

- 1) That the proposed fare increase be approved in principle subject to results of the formal advertising process**
- 2) That the proposed fare increase not be approved**

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There will be costs in advertising and implementation.

Approximate total cost £1,000

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Dealt with in report

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD OR DIRECTOR CONSULTATION:**

Report seen by Head of Organisational Development.

Does this report raise any legal, financial, sustainability, equality, crime and disorder or human rights issues and, if so, have they been considered?	Issues	
	Legal	√
	Financial	√
	Risk	X
	Sustainability	X
	Equality	X
	Crime and Disorder	X
	Human Rights	X
	Every Child Matters	X



Finally, not in the consultation but would like raised is to suggest an increase in the taxi meter rates, the last increase was in 2013 and since then the living wage / work place pensions/cost of living (fuel/Insurance/food etc) has all gone up but the taxis fares have stayed the same. So, would like to purpose the following increases.

### **Proposed Change of Hackney Carriage Table of Fares**

#### **TARIFF 1 – DAY RATE 0600-2300**

FOR DISTANCES UP TO **176** YARDS.....£2.50

THEREAFTER FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT **176** YARDS OR PART THEREOF.....£0.25

WAITING TIME FOR EACH **45** SECONDS OR PART THEREOF.....£0.25

#### **TARIFF 2 – NIGHT RATE 2300-0600 & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (except Christmas/New Year)**

FOR DISTANCES UP TO **390** YARDS.....£3.00

THEREAFTER FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT **195** YARDS OR PART THEREOF.....£0.35

WAITING TIME FOR EACH **45** SECONDS OR PART THEREOF.....£0.35

#### **TARIFF 3 – SUNDAY RATE 0600-2300**

FOR DISTANCES UP TO **330** YARDS.....£2.70

THEREAFTER FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT **185** YARDS OR PART THEREOF.....£0.30

WAITING TIME FOR EACH **45** SECONDS OR PART THEREOF.....£0.30

#### **TARIFF 4 – CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR RATE 1800-0600 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER TO 0600 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER & 1800 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER TO 0600 2<sup>ND</sup> JAN**

FOR DISTANCES UP TO **880** YARDS.....£4.40

THEREAFTER FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT **195** YARDS OR PART THEREOF.....£0.45

WAITING TIME FOR EACH **45** SECONDS OR PART THEREOF.....£0.45

#### **ADDITIONAL CHARGES**

For each article of luggage carried outside the carriage.....£0.25

For each person in excess of one (*Children under 3 years not counted*).....£0.25

For cleaning following the soiling of the **interior** of the vehicle, a charge

not exceeding .....£80.00

For cleaning following the soiling of the **exterior** of the vehicle, a charge

not exceeding .....£30.00

[REDACTED]

13/09/2018

Licensing Team  
GYBC

**The Manager,**

I am writing in regards to the fare increases proposed by [REDACTED]

As an independent taxi driver I feel that the price increase is unnecessary and would be detrimental to all those who are independent and the smaller taxi companies.

With Great Yarmouth being a deprived area all the increase will achieve is the small tips we do receive stopping altogether.

Going up in stages of 25p will be inconvenient as most people don't like dealing with these small unnecessary coins.

The average fare from Gorleston to Great Yarmouth is £10 which I believe is quite sufficient for a journey of usually less than 15 mins.

I personally feel that all the price increase would achieve is people sharing a mini bus instead of using the normal cars, again this having a large effect on the independent driver.

Most of the drivers who drive for [REDACTED] are P.A.Y.E. so they will earn the same no matter how many jobs they do, whereas we independent drivers need these jobs to survive.

I also feel that Bank Holiday Rate & Night Rate are already high enough and believe that night rate should only come into force from midnight as opposed to 23:00.

There are many times of the year when we sit out there for hours on end just waiting for our next job so we can make ends meet at home and this proposed price increase would surely make a very difficult job a lot harder, bigger firms can afford not to worry about how much work comes off the ranks as they have their own bookings and many drivers are private hire anyway, but us independent drivers do worry about the next job off the ranks as this our bread and butter.

Thank You

[REDACTED]

START POINT	DESTINATION	MILES	YARDS	T1 OLD	T1 NEW	diff	T2 OLD	T2 NEW	diff	T3 OLD	T3 NEW	diff	T4 OLD	T3 NEW	diff
Sealife Centre	North Denes Holiday Park	2.05	3,608.00	£6.10	£7.38	£1.28	£7.55	£8.78	£1.23	£6.83	£8.02	£1.19	£9.60	£10.70	£1.10
Theatre Plain rank	Peggotty Road	1.10	1,936.00	£4.20	£5.00	£0.80	£4.98	£5.77	£0.80	£4.57	£5.30	£0.73	£6.17	£6.84	£0.67
Gorleston Feathers Rank	James Paget Hospital	1.37	2,441.20	£4.77	£5.72	£0.94	£5.76	£6.68	£0.93	£5.25	£6.12	£0.87	£7.20	£8.00	£0.80
James Paget Hospital	Northgate Hospital	4.35	7,656.00	£10.70	£13.13	£2.43	£13.78	£16.04	£2.26	£12.30	£14.58	£2.28	£17.90	£20.04	£2.14
White Hart Pub Hopton	Vauxhall Station	6.50	11,440.00	£15.00	£18.50	£3.50	£19.60	£22.83	£3.23	£17.41	£20.72	£3.30	£25.66	£28.77	£3.11
Walpole Rd	Matalan Southtown	1.80	3,168.00	£5.60	£6.75	£1.15	£6.87	£7.99	£1.11	£6.24	£7.30	£1.07	£8.69	£9.68	£0.99

TABLE OF COMPARISONS

MILE	Tariff 1 DAY RATE	Tariff 2 NIGHT RATE and PUBLIC HOLIDAYS		Tariff 3 SUNDAY RATE	Tariff 4 CHRISTMAS/ NEW YEAR
GYBC CURRENT FEE  February 2013	£4.00	£4.70		£4.35	£5.80
<b>GYBC PROPOSED FEE</b>	<b>£5.20</b>	<b>£5.45</b>		<b>£5.40</b>	<b>£6.45</b>
BRECKLAND COUNCIL	£3.60	£ 5.40		£4.50	N/A
KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK	£4.00	£6.00		£5.00	N/A
NORWICH CITY COUNCIL	£4.80	£5.20		£5.40	£7.80
SUFFOLK COASTAL (July 2012)	£4.20	£4.90 (night time only)	£7.35 (public hols)	N/A	+100% for Xmas day, Boxing day and New Years day
WAVENEY DISTRICT	£4.00	£4.80		£4.80	£6.20