



GREAT YARMOUTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Licensing Committee

Date: Tuesday, 20 September 2022

Time: 18:30

Venue: Council Chamber

Address: Town Hall, Hall Plain, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2QF

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

You have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter to be discussed if it relates to something on your Register of Interests form. You must declare the interest and leave the room while the matter is dealt with.

You have a Personal Interest in a matter to be discussed if it affects

- your well being or financial position
- that of your family or close friends
- that of a club or society in which you have a management role
- that of another public body of which you are a member to a greater extent than others in your ward.

You must declare a personal interest but can speak and vote on the matter.

Whenever you declare an interest you must say why the interest arises, so that it can be included in the minutes.

3 MINUTES

3 - 5

To confirm the minutes of the last meeting.

4 FIRST CLASS HACKNEY FARES

6 - 16

Report attached.

5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To consider any other business as may be determined by the Chairman of the meeting as being of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

6 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

In the event of the Committee wishing to exclude the public from the meeting, the following resolution will be moved:-

"That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12(A) of the said Act."



GREAT YARMOUTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Licensing Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, 13 July 2022 at 18:00

Present :

Councillor G Carpenter (in the Chair); Councillors Bensly, Bird, Borg, Cordiner-Achenbach, Hanton, Robinson-Payne, Stenhouse and Walker.

Councillor Wells attended as substitute for Councillor Galer

Councillor Mogford attended as substitute for Councillor Lawn.

Also in attendance

Mr J Wilson (Head of Environmental Services), Mrs D Wilby (Licensing and Election's Manager), Mr D Lowens (Solicitor, Nplaw) and Mrs S Wintle (Corporate Services Manager).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hanton declared a personal interest as he was known to Mr Kitchen.

Councillor Wells declared a personal interest as a regular user of taxi services.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 16 May 2022 were confirmed.

4 FIRST CLASS HACKNEY FARES

Members received and considered the Licensing and Election Manager's report which asked Members to consider requests for a hackney carriage fare increase and whether to approve in principle subject to the formal advertising process.

The Licensing and Elections Manager reported that a request had been received from a local taxi company, as a result of the 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.

It was advised that 86 responses were received in total with 51 being in favour of the proposal. Three further proposals were submitted during the consultation which had been included in the agenda pack.

Members received a summary of the requested increase proposals from Swift Enterprises who had originally submitted the requested increase together with those representatives who had submitted further proposals as part of the consultation process as follows :-

Mr Kevin Boyne - Swift Enterprises GY Ltd
Mr Roy Simmons - Taxi Association
Mr Rolan Kitchen - Ocean Cab Ltd
Mr Sean Morley - S Morley

Members discussed the proposals the following questions were raised :-

- Clarification around the waiting time - it was confirmed that as soon as the meter in the taxi was turned off then the waiting time would commence.
- Average journeys - it was confirmed that the average journey from Gorleston to Yarmouth was around 1.5 to 2 miles.

Concern was raised as to whether some of the meters currently in place would be able to cope with a couple of the proposed tariffs.

The Chairman commented that the original proposal from Swift should be considered for approval subject to an amendment to the night-time operating hours from 19:00pm to 22:00pm.

RESOLVED :

That the proposed fare increase be approved in principle with an amendment of the night-time tariff hours from 19:00 to 22:00 subject to results of formal advertising process.

5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business discussed at the meeting.

6 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on the 13 May 2022 were confirmed.

The meeting ended at: 20:00

URN: 22-085

Subject: First Class Hackney Fares

Report to: Licensing Committee – 14 September 2022

Report by: Licensing and Elections Manager

SUBJECT MATTER AND DECISION REQUIRED

Following the formal advertising process and subsequent objections received, Members are asked to consider approval or amendment of the revised hackney carriage fare tariff.

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. (The 1976 Act). 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.
- 1.2 The fare shown on the meter is the maximum that may be charged.
- 1.3 The current table of fares was set in 2013 and is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.4 A request was received from a local taxi firm and considered at Licensing committee on 13 July.
- 1.5 A varied table of fares was agreed by members at the committee meeting and then formally advertised in the local press. (Appendix 2) In addition a copy of this varied table of fares was made available for public inspection at the Town Hall and on the council's website during the consultation period.

2. Consultation

- 2.1 The formal consultation period was from 22 July until 8 August 2022.
- 2.2 14 responses were received during this time and these comments are attached. (Appendix 3) These objections to the varied table of fares have not been withdrawn.
- 2.3 The main concerns relate to the initial starting price and the impact this would have on customers wanting smaller length journeys.

3. Amended proposal

- 3.1 As a result of these concerns the varied table of fares has been revisited.

- 3.2 Discussions were held with officers and several representatives of the taxi trade, including the initial proposer and meter agents to discuss the concerns.
- 3.3 At this meeting an amended table of fares was discussed. This removes the starting rate from £5 to £2.80 on Tariff 1. £6 to £3.20 on Tariff 2 and £8 to £4.60 on the Christmas and New Year tariff.
- 3.4 During these discussions it was felt that because the initial starting price had been reduced, then the Sunday rate would need to be re-implemented and this would start at £3.00, this charge being in between the day and night rates.
- 3.5 A copy of this amended tariff is attached as Appendix 4, together with example costs to the public.
- 3.6 Under s65(4) of the 1976 Act, as objections have been made and not withdrawn, the council is obliged to set a date on which the varied table of fares shall come into force with or without modifications. These modifications, if any, are decided by the council after consideration of the objections. There is no limitation given in the statute as to the modifications which can be made.

4 Options for Members

- That the modified table of fares in Appendix 4 be approved and implemented.
- That the modified table of fares attached as Appendix 2 as originally agreed by committee on 13 July be approved without amendment and implemented.
- That the proposed increase is not implemented, and the varied table of fares reverts to that set out as Appendix 1
- That the varied table of fares to be approved with any other modification and implemented

5 Recommendations

Officers' would recommend the approval of implementing the modified table of fares as attached in Appendix 4. This version has considered the comments received during the consultation period and been agreed by representatives of the taxi trade.

Areas of consideration: e.g. does this report raise any of the following issues and if so how have these been considered/mitigated against?

Area for consideration	Comment
Monitoring Officer Consultation:	consulted
Section 151 Officer Consultation:	
Existing Council Policies:	Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy and Handbook
Financial Implications (including VAT and tax):	None
Legal Implications (including human rights):	Yes - Nplaw consulted
Risk Implications:	
Equality Issues/EQIA assessment:	
Crime & Disorder:	
Every Child Matters:	

Current Tariff

<u>Tariff 1 - Day Rate: 0600-2300</u>	
For distances up to 176 yards	2.20
Thereafter for each subsequent 176 yards or part thereof	0.20
Waiting time for each 45 seconds or part thereof	0.20
<u>Tariff 2 - Night Rate: 2300-0600 & Public Holidays (except Xmas/New Year)</u>	
For distances up to 390 yards	2.60
Thereafter for each subsequent 195 yards or part thereof	0.30
Waiting time for each 45 seconds or part thereof	0.30
<u>Tariff 3 - Sunday Rate: 0600-2300</u>	
For distances up to 330 yards	2.40
Thereafter for each subsequent 185 yards or part thereof	0.25
Waiting time for each 45 seconds or part thereof	0.25
<u>Tariff 4 - Christmas & New Year Rate: From 1800 24th December to 0600 27th December & from 1800 31st December to 0600 2nd January</u>	
For distances up to 880 yards	4.00
Thereafter for each subsequent 195 yards or part thereof	0.40
Waiting time for each 45 seconds or part thereof	0.40
<u>Additional charges</u>	
For each article of luggage carried outside the carriage	0.20
For each person in excess of one (Children under 3 years not counted)	0.20
For cleaning following the soiling of the interior of the vehicle, a charge not exceeding	75.00
For cleaning following the soiling of the exterior of the vehicle, a charge not exceeding	25.00

Varied Table of Fares agreed by Members at Licensing Committee on 13 July 2022

<u>Tariff 1 - Day Rate: 0600-2200</u>	
For distances up to 1760 yards	5.00
Thereafter for each subsequent 176 yards or part thereof	0.25
Waiting time for each 45 seconds or part thereof	0.25
<u>Tariff 2 - Night Rate: 2200-0600 & Public Holidays (except Xmas/New Year)</u>	
For distances up to 1760 yards	6.00
Thereafter for each subsequent 195 yards or part thereof	0.35
Waiting time for each 45 seconds or part thereof	0.35
<u>Tariff 3 - Christmas & New Year Rate: From 1800 24th December to 0600 27th December & from 1800 31st December to 0600 2nd January</u>	
For distances up to 1760 yards	8.00
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	0.30
For each person in excess of one (Children under 3 years not counted)	0.30
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

Consultation after Formal consultation

Name	Comments
Driver	<p>I'm happy to proceed with this proposed fares as current fuel prices are very high.</p> <p>It will help taxi drivers to survive at this very times due to all services and products prices increasing.</p> <p>It was very difficult to survive during COVID-19 lockdowns as taxi driver so in this proposed fares it will be as recover from this bad time.</p>
HC Plateholder	<p>I would like to voice my concerns about the huge hike to a 5 pound starting fee and 6 pound night rate . I believe this will hurt our trade as it is unaffordable for some of my customers who use taxis regularly for shopping and smaller trips to church and hairdressers. This is just greed and in the long run will have a negative impact on taxis who work regularly from the ranks . We have to be more realistic and we have been hit by the cost of fuel and other hikes in the running of our cabs but our customers are also struggling with price increases in every day living and may decide not to use taxis in the future if we make them unaffordable</p>
Driver	<p>just seen the new proposal for the taxi fares i think that is too much to ask people to pay for you will lose a lot of customers and other people too you be better off by asking up to 40p , yes i know there are hard times ahead but that is way too much , when i use to do taxi work people would say we was the cheapest in town but you will find people will not use taxi's at all especially summer holidays and christmas time no a fence but people will use the BUSES more with cheaper fares as well</p>
HC Plateholder	<p>I feel that everyone is trying to put different pricing in yes we need a increase but a fare one that won't hurt the old people maybe 30p on start rate and 10p on the drop might be better still in all fairness I've only been doing it 30 plus year what what do I know it will be what it will</p>
Driver	<p>I dont agree with the £5.00 starting charge as alot of the elderly get taxis from the supermarkets only to go down the road. At the current rate it goes about £3.00 to £ 4.00 to start at £5.00 that's a bit to much for people and the elderly who are struggling in the current climate. So I would like to put forward my objection. Maybe look at the distances between the fees not a straight £5.00 charge.</p>
PH Plateholder	<p>I fully support the proposal of the new taxi rate increase. It's long overdue because costs of running a taxi since the last rate increase in 2013 have Substantially increased with fuel , insurance, , purchasing a vehicle and the cost of maintenance etc . Plus the cost of living has also gone up as we all know I believe that members of the public will understand that this rate increase is fair and will not put them off using taxis in the future .</p>

Driver	<p>I am writing to say I am fully in favour of the proposed fare increase, the reason being that fuel costs have soared over recent months increased fees with the council also everything else is currently increasing in price which is now making it difficult to make a reasonable living and not having a fare increase over the last 10 years or more after this increase it should go up yearly with inflation.</p>
HC Plateholder	<p>I'm writing this email to object against the proposed increase. The very large start rate on all tariffs, would scare off any potential trade, moving forward.</p> <p>Taking away the summer holiday trade, we live in a town with a lot of regular riders. A lot of local runs around town, who are happy paying £3.40 ish. Which through the winter I'm happy in receiving that.</p> <p>Upon seeing £5 start rate, I believe it would worry them. To the point of walking.</p> <p>Then having a knock on effect to the Taxi drivers, losing these customers. Then bring our earnings down. With a result of giving up and joining the universal credit system.</p> <p>It's no difference, why shop keepers list their stock at let's say £2.99 and not £3.00. To the first look the brain will tell you is a good deal, although it's only a penny cheaper.</p> <p>I've been with the Taxi trade for about 25 years now, and have seen many rate rises.</p> <p>Also being a Taxi Meter agent for the whole of Norfolk.</p> <p>Not any town has seen a 127% start rate rise ever.</p> <p>A little on the start rate with a little lower yardage drop would work a lot better. So the driver would still get the £5 over the mile, just showing a different way, making it more attractive to the eye.</p> <p>There is a way of introducing a tariff rise, to hide the rise.</p> <p>The cost of living is going through the roof, and yes it is time to have an increase. However there is a more easier way of doing this to please the eye, and this is not it.</p> <p>So again I object to this rise.</p>
Driver	<p>I feel that the swift increase is well deserved by taxi drivers. We have not had an increase for 9 years. Fuel is priced at an all time high and the increase in insurance and repairs etc need to be reimbursed.</p> <p>My vote is YES to swift increase proposal.</p>
Driver	<p>I for one oppose the rate increase which swift/albies are putting through.</p> <p>We have just come out of a 2 year covid pandemic of which the taxi trade has been hit hard and now we have a cost of living pandemic which is having an impact on the trade.</p> <p>Putting the fares up by 5 pound rate one and 6 pound rate 2 will destroy the taxi trade all together.</p>

	<p>All your get in the winter months are taxi piled up on the ranks with no work...sure the taxi inspector will love trying to move them in the winter.</p> <p>Therefore I apose to the rate increase and I'm in favour of Mr Sean Morley proposel which makes more sense</p>
HC Plateholder	<p>As a driver who has been in the trade for 32 years i do not agree with latest fare proposal starting rates are far too high and will likely decrease small fare volume as 2 mile trips are almost double current rates ,a smaller increase on start rate and yardage would have been preferable</p>
Member of public	<p>My husband and I are against the new proposals to put the taxi fares up. We can appreciate the taxi rate hasn't increased for a few years and everyone needs to make a living of some kind. My husband and I are pensioners worked all our life and have to manage our money.</p> <p>We rely on taxis to get us about which has not been easy of late, you can't use buses as it is not safe with this covid.</p> <p>So please have a rethink, if you put the fares up what you are proposing I think you will lose a lot of business as people can't afford what with food petrol and energy bills going up to.</p>
HC Plateholder	<p>A starting rate of £5 for day rate will alienate/discriminate against those members of the public who use taxis as a necessity rather than by choice eg disabled, health-impaired, shoppers with some distance to walk with heavy shopping etc., some of whom might currently pay less than £4 for their journey. Surely a lower start rate is a fairer way to effect our much-needed increase after nine years on the current tariff.</p> <p>Somewhat conversely, taking out waiting time proposed with the £5 start rate will inevitably lead to problems during busy traffic times, eg a customer wishing to go from the town centre to Cobholm or Southtown with heavy traffic and the possibility of Haven Bridge problems waiting time could be tens of minutes, thereby quickly losing the driver times. This could potentially lead to customers being turned away during busy times or unscrupulous drivers setting their own inflated fares before agreeing to take the job.</p> <p>Other proposals, night rate and cessation of Sunday rate, are also unreasonable and may inevitably lead to loss of business and grievances with customers and drivers alike.</p> <p>I believe the tariff put forward by Morley taxis has been based on previous tariff calculations which would result in being fair to both customers and drivers.</p>
HC Plateholder	<p>Please find my thoughts on the proposed Fare Increase as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even though the starting rates would be for the first mile only the jump form £2.20 to £5.00 for Tariff 1, £2.60 to £6.00 for Tariff 2 and £4.00 to £8.00 for Tariff 3 are over 100% increases and would severely damage the trade as the public would think this is too much and would then seek alternative travel arrangements.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The running mile on all 3 Tariffs is once again way to much and would make a taxi to much for a lot of the public especially as we are now recovering from the Covid-19 Pandemic. • The waiting time does not need to be altered in my opinion as it is reasonable as it is and would further increase the cost of a taxi within the Borough. • The extras for items of luggage is also excessive as it has been increased by 50% • The extras for each person in excess in one is also excessive as it has been increased by 50% <p>We need a reasonable increase and something which is balanced so not to put the Public off travelling in Taxis especially this Winter where everyone will be experiencing higher costs such as heating home, running motor vehicles, food, etc.</p>
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Amended Tariff

<u>Tariff 1 - Day Rate: 0600-2200</u>	
For distances up to 160 yards	2.80
Thereafter and for each subsequent 160 yards or part thereof	0.20
Waiting time for each 45 seconds or part thereof	0.20
<u>Tariff 2 - Night Rate: 2200-0600 & Public Holidays (except Xmas/New Year)</u>	
For distances up to 260 yards	3.20
Thereafter and for each subsequent 180 yards or part thereof	0.30
Waiting time for each 45 seconds or part thereof	0.30
<u>Tariff 3 - Sunday Rate: 0600-22:00</u>	
For distances up to 180 yards	3.00
Thereafter and for each subsequent 180 yards or part thereof	0.25
Waiting time for each 45 seconds or part thereof	0.25
<u>Tariff 4 - Christmas & New Year Rate: From 1800 24th December to 0600 27th December & from 1800 31st December to 0600 2nd January</u>	
For distances up to 160 yards	4.60
Thereafter and for each subsequent 180 yards or part thereof	0.40
Waiting time for each 45 seconds or part thereof	0.40
Additional charges	
For each article of luggage carried outside the carriage	0.30
For each person in excess of one (Children under 3 years not counted)	0.30
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

APPENDIX 4 - Tariff 1 – Day rate 06:00-22:00

Journey in miles	Current Cost (£)	Amended tariff costs (£)
1	4.20	5.00
2	6.20	7.20
6	14.20	16.00
10	22.20	24.80

Tariff 2 – Night rate 22:00-06:00 & Public Holidays (except Xmas/New Year)

Journey in miles	Current Cost (£)	Amended tariff costs (£)
1	5.30	6.20
2	8.00	9.20
6	18.80	20.90
10	29.60	32.60

Tariff 3 – Sunday rate 06:00-22:00

Journey in miles	Current Cost (£)	Amended tariff costs (£)
1	4.65	5.50
2	7.15	8.00
6	16.65	17.75
10	26.15	27.50

**Tariff 4 – Xmas & New Year Rate 18:00 24 December to 06:00 27 December
and from 18:00 31 December to 06:00 2 January**

Journey in miles	Current Cost (£)	Amended tariff costs (£)
1	6.40	7.40
2	10.00	11.40
6	24.40	27.00
10	38.80	42.60