

Licensing Committee - Wednesday 17 October 2007**HACKNEY CARRIAGES – TABLE OF FARES FOR 2008/09****Report of The Licensing Manager**

Statutory Powers: Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

Financial Implications: There are no direct financial implications to the Council from this report.

Purpose of this Report

To seek Members approval to change the Table of Fares for Hackney Carriages for 2008/09.

This proposal indirectly links to the Councils priorities of CP2: 'Creating the conditions for the growth and maintenance of quality economic activity' and CP6: 'Improving core service performance in a cost-effective way'. The setting of Hackney Carriage Fares is a statutory requirement.

Recommendations

That the Licensing Committee RECOMMEND to Council that:-

- a. In respect of Hackney Carriages operating within the South Hams District Council, the maximum fares which may be charged should be set in accordance with the Table of Fares attached as the Appendix to this report, and**
- b. The Table of Fares be advertised and come into effect in accordance with the provisions of Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.**

Background

1. Hackney Carriage fares are generally reviewed annually to allow the trade to keep pace with operating costs.

Consultation

2. A letter was written to all proprietors setting out proposals for increasing fares. The Hackney Carriage Trade were consulted on the new Table of Fares and no objections were received. Before finalising the proposed fares the proposal must be advertised for information purposes.

Summary of Changes

3. The changes to the Table of Fares are detailed in the attached Appendix highlighting the existing and proposed fares. The Table of Fares have been improved to allow for increases in inflation, insurance, fuel costs and Hackney Carriage Licence fees. The proposed fee increases are not uniform across fares, but as an example the cost of a one mile journey on tariff 1 will increase by 7.7%, a two mile journey by 6.4% and a ten mile journey by 4.4%.

Similarly on tariff 2 the same distances of one, two and ten miles distance the fares will increase by 5%, 3.4% and 0.09% respectively. Some of these figures are higher than inflation but considered reasonable when balanced against the increases in running and maintaining a vehicle. When making comparisons of fares against other Local Authorities the South Hams, even with the suggested increases, will still have one of the lowest taxi tariffs in Devon and Cornwall with a two mile journey costing just £4.82. (Further information in 'background documents' below).

Risk Assessment

4. Travelling a short distance will only cost an extra 23p – 29p per one / two mile journey. The fluctuation in fuel prices and the increase in insurance premiums are outside the control of this council but if we fail to keep the tariffs under review we will ultimately lose taxi drivers to other occupations. In a rural area where busses are scarce this will have a detrimental effect on residents and visitors to the area. A balance, however, also need to be drawn to keep the tariffs reasonable for the travelling public.

Conclusion

5. In calculating the proposed tariff increases, allowances have been made for normal inflation plus this years considerable increase in vehicle running costs. When comparing tariffs with other local authorities the South Hams will still have one of the lowest rates.

G Munson
Licensing Manager

I J Bollans
Head of Environmental Health

Licensing Committee
17 October 2007

Background Documents

Listed below are a summary of other Local Authorities tariffs for a **two mile** journey which have been carried out by an independent publishing company. [The date the tariff was first introduced is in brackets]:-

West Devon	£Not metered.
North Cornwall	£Not metered.
Caradon	£6.10 [Dec. 2006]
North Devon	£5.75 [July 2005]
Restormel	£5.60 [May 2007]
Exeter	£5.50 [Oct. 2006]
Carrick	£5.30 [May 2007]
Kerrier	£5.04 [April 2006]
Torbay	£5.03 [Nov. 2006]
Mid Devon	£5.00 [Dec. 2006]
Penwith	£4.90 [April 2007]
Teignbridge	£4.80 [April 2007]
East Devon	£4.70 [Jan. 2005]
Torridge	£4.70 [Dec. 2005]
Plymouth	£4.60 [Mar. 2006]

<u>Existing</u>		<u>Proposed</u>
<i>South Hams</i>	£4.53 [Jan.2007]	£4.82 [w.e.f. 3 rd January 2008]

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL

MOTOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall be entitled to demand and take for hire of the carriage the rate of fare prescribed by the following table, the rate of fare being calculated by distance, except that if the distance travelled is more than five miles from the point where the hirer commences the hiring, the hirer and proprietor may agree at the commencement of the hiring to engage by time.

Provided always that where a hackney carriage furnished with a taximeter shall be hired by distance the proprietor or driver thereof shall not be entitled to demand and take a fare greater than that recorded on the face of the taximeter, save for any extra charges authorised by the following table which it may not be possible to record on the face of the taximeter.

FARES FOR DISTANCE

	Existing	<i>Proposed</i>
1. <u>TARIFF 1</u> – Monday to Saturday where the hiring commences between 7am and 11pm.		
For the first 786.38 metres (860 yards) or part thereof	£2.20	£2.40
For each subsequent 104.24 metres (114 yards) or uncompleted part thereof	10 pence	
<i>For each subsequent 201.17 metres (220 yards) or uncompleted part thereof</i>		<i>20 pence</i>
 <i>(In effect this means a one-mile journey will increase from £2.99 to £3.22 [+7.7%] a two mile journey will increase from £4.53 to £4.82 [+6.4%] and a ten mile journey will increase from £16.88 to £17.62 [+4.4%]. The national averages for the same distances being £3.08; £4.61 & £17.04)</i>		
 <u>Waiting Time</u>		
For each period of 70 seconds or uncompleted part thereof	10 pence (for 35 sec)	<i>20 pence (for 70 sec)</i>
2. <u>TARIFF 2</u> – Sundays and Bank Holidays where the hiring commences between 7am and 11pm and on all other days where the hiring commences between 11pm and 7am and where the hiring commences between 7pm on 24 th December and 7am on 27 th December and between 7pm on 31 st December and 7am on 2 nd January.		
For the first 786.38 metres (860 yards) or part	£2.90	£3.10

thereof
 For each subsequent 76.81 metres (84 yards) 10 pence
 or uncompleted part thereof

For each subsequent 153.62 metres (168 yards) or uncompleted part thereof 20 pence

(In effect this means a one-mile journey will increase from £3.97 to £4.17 [+5%], a two mile journey will increase from £6.06 to £6.27 [+3.4%] and a ten mile journey will increase from £22.83 to £23.03 [+0.9%]. The national average for the same distances being £4.12; £6.15 and £22.52)

WAITING TIME

For each period of 48 seconds or uncompleted part thereof 10 pence (for 24 seconds) 20 pence (for 48 seconds)

3. TARIFF 3 – Where the hirer specifically requests an eight passenger seat vehicle. There is a stipulation that each seat must be equipped with a three anchorage point seat belt. Daily 24 hours.

For the first 786.38 metres (860 yards) or part thereof £3.50 £3.70

For each subsequent 74.81 metres (84 yards) or uncompleted part thereof 10 pence

For each subsequent 153.62 metres (168 yards) or uncompleted part thereof 20 pence

(In effect this means the Tariff for the hire of an eight passenger seat mini bus will be 60p greater than Tariff 2).

WAITING TIME

For each period of 48 seconds or uncompleted part thereof 10 pence (for 24 seconds) 20 pence (for 48 seconds)

4. EXTRA CHARGES

For the fouling of the interior or exterior of the carriage £80.00 £80.00

For each article of luggage or other article conveyed outside the passenger 25 pence 25 pence

compartment of the carriage	25 pence	<i>25 pence</i>
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For each animal carried (Assistance dogs are carried free of charge)

For each person in excess of one (two children between the ages of 3 years and 6 years shall be regarded as one person. A child under 3 years shall not be reckoned).	25 pence	<i>25 pence</i>
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BOOKING CHARGE

For each hiring which requires the driver to drive to the hirer's Designated pick up point	£1.00	<i>£1.00</i>
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