
HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE TARIFF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is to consider proposed changes to the existing authorised fare tariff submitted by the Rochford Hackney Carriage Drivers Association.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Members approved a new fare tariff with an implementation date of 2 December 2002, however following an unsuccessful appeal to the Magistrates Court by a section of the trade, the new fare tariff was finally introduced on 22 May 2003.
- 2.2 The Trade would like Members to consider a change to the current tariff to reflect increases in motoring costs, in particular, the high cost of insuring vehicles for "Hire and Reward". Drivers are drawing attention to the fact that, increasingly, a lot of their evening work is travelling into the Southend District, and the Trade would like to see comparative fares with their neighbouring Authority.

3 COMPARISONS

- 3.1 The current fare tariff dated 2 December 2002 is attached at Appendix No 1, the proposed fare increase is attached at Appendix No 2, and for comparisons of fares from other Local Authorities see Appendix No 3. Additionally, Appendix No 4 provides comparative data on journeys between 1 and 4 miles.

4 THE PROPOSED FARE CHANGES

- 4.1 The proposed fare change is to increase the starting rate from £1.80 for the first 213.5 yards or 57 seconds to £2.10 for the first 882 yards or 3 minutes 4 seconds. This will have the effect of favouring those passengers who make only very short journeys.
- 4.2 Then from 20p for each 300 yards or 1 minute 24 seconds until a fare of £6.40 is shown, increase to 20p for every 286 yards or 60 seconds until a fare of £6.70 is shown. This creates an increase of around 4% in this travel range.
- 4.3 Then from 20p for each 220 yards or 1 minute 3 seconds to 20p for each 214.52 yards or 45 seconds. This has the effect of a 2.5% increase in this travel range which affects only the longer journeys.
- 4.4 There is a further request to reduce the charge for the carriage of animals from £1.10 to 30p. This excludes guide dogs and hearing dogs that are carried free of charge.

- 4.5 The final proposed change to the tariff is to reduce the night rate and for Sundays and Bank Holidays from £1.10 to £1.00 but to amend the implementation time of the night rate from 10.30pm to 9pm. The Transportation Manager is researching the effective times of the night rate with other Essex authorities and will report verbally at the Meeting.

5 RETAIL PRICES INDEX

- 5.1 At Environmental Services Committee on 5 September Members agreed

“that for this and future tariff reviews, the ALL ITEMS INDEX would be used to determine the percentage increase for Hackney Carriage Fares. In this instance the increase would be 1.76%, rounded up to the nearest whole number, with an additional 1%. This would result in a 3% rise in Hackney Carriage fares.”

- 5.2 Applying the same philosophy this year would result in an increase of 5% which the drivers consider to be too much. The calculation is shown below:-

<u>RPI April 2002</u>	<u>RPI April 2003</u>	<u>Increase</u>
175.7	181.2	3.13%

3.13% rounded up to 4% + 1% = 5%

- 5.3 The Hackney Carriage Drivers Association are proposing an increase which ranges between 2.5% and 4% based on distance travelled. This does not appear to be an unreasonable request bearing in mind expenses associated with this trade as outlined in paragraph 2.2 above.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Staff are required to test all the taximeters once the fare increase is implemented this can be completed in one day with 4 members of staff. Recent changes to the establishment of the Transportation Team mean that there would not be a diminution of service whilst testing takes place.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There is a statutory requirement to advertise the tariff and invite objections. There may be further implications if objections to the fare increase are received.

8 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

- 8.1 The first date Environmental Services Committee could consider this Sub-Committee's recommendations would be 4 September 2003. Any changes would then need to be advertised and objections considered. An appropriate implementation date would therefore be around the end of October 2003.

9 RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 It is proposed that the Sub Committee considers the report and makes recommendations to the next Environmental Services Committee.

S J Clarkson

Head of Revenue and Housing Management

Background Papers:

Letters requesting a fare increase from the Hackney Carriage Drivers Association.

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