
HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE INCREASE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is to consider a request from the Rochford Hackney Carriage Drivers Association to change the existing authorised fare tariff.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Each year the taxi trade submit a request for a change to the authorised fare tariff and ask Members to consider their proposals taking into account increases in motoring costs, in particular the high cost of fuel.
- 2.2 This year the trade have decided not to go for an overall percentage increase as in recent years and have opted for a change to the extra charges, which are detailed below.

3 COMPARISONS

- 3.1 The current fare tariff dated 2 September 2004, is attached at **Appendix 1**; the proposed fare increase is attached at **Appendix 2**; and **Appendix 3** shows comparison extra charges for night rate and booking fee from other Essex Authorities.

4 PROPOSED FARE INCREASE

- 4.1 The proposal is to retain the current fare tariff for distance and time and to make two amendments to the extra charges. These changes are to introduce a booking fee of 20p and to increase the night rate from £1.60 to £2.00. There is no proposal to change the implementation times of the extra charges.
- 4.2 The proposed booking fee would be charged when a passenger books a vehicle in advance by telephone or other means, prior to the commencement of the journey, from a stated place other than a taxi rank. The booking fee covers the distance the driver must travel to collect the passenger and is commonly known as dead mileage.
- 4.3 The proposed increase in the night rate from £1.60 to £2.00 is to encourage more drivers to work at night to ensure that revellers are transported to their destinations as quickly as possible. This would help the Police to clear the streets, particularly in the main town centres and would also assist in reducing crime and disorder in the District.
- 4.4 Members are reminded that for passengers hailing a taxi from the taxi rank and travelling between the hours of 6.00am and 10.30pm, there will be no increase to the current fare tariff.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There is a statutory requirement to advertise the new tariff in a local newspaper giving 14 days for objections. There may be further implications if objections to the fare increase are received.

9 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

- 9.1 An appropriate implementation date will be decided when Members have approved the fare tariff and any objections received have been considered. However it is advised that the tariff change be implemented as soon as possible following the Committee decision and the consultation period.

10 RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 It is proposed that the Sub Committee determines its recommendations to the Environmental Services Committee.

S J Clarkson

Head of Revenue and Housing Management

Background Papers:-

A letter requesting a fare increase from the Chairman of the Hackney Carriage Drivers Association. Results of a survey to the trade of two possible tariff options.

For further information please contact Joanne Crawford on:- 01702 318166

Tel:- 01702 318166

E-Mail:- joanne.crawford@rochford.gov.uk