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## HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE TARIFF

### 1 SUMMARY

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

### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Each year the trade submit a request for a change to the authorised fare tariff. The Trade would like Members to consider the proposed changes which reflect increases in motoring costs, in particular the increase in fuel and the high costs of hire and reward insurance. The Trade draw attention to the fact that a majority of their evening work is travelling into the Southend District and would therefore like to see comparative fares with their neighbouring Authority.

### 3 COMPARISONS

The current fare tariff dated 3 November 2003, is attached at **Appendix No 1**, the proposed fare increase is attached at **Appendix No 2**, comparisons of fares from other Local Authorities is attached at **Appendix No 3**, **Appendix No 4**, provides comparative data on journeys between 1 and 4 miles and finally **Appendix No 5**, shows comparison night rate implementation times from other Local Authorities.

### 4 THE PROPOSED FARE INCREASE

- 4.1 The proposed fare change is to increase the starting rate from £2.10 to £2.30.
- 4.2 Then from 20p for each 286 yards or 60 seconds until a fare of £6.40 is shown, changed to 20p for every 260 yards or 60 seconds until a fare of £7.30 is shown.
- 4.3 Then from 20p for each 214.52 yards or 45 seconds after a fare of £6.40 is shown, to 20p for each 190 yards or 45 seconds after a fare of £7.30 is shown.
- 4.4 There is a request to include the £1.60 extra for Sundays, Bank Holidays and night rate to a separate tariff, (tariff No 2) so that the £1.60 is no longer shown as an extra. Tariff 2 would therefore be the same as tariff 1, apart from the start rate of £3.90, which is £2.30 + £1.60. Tariff 3 would remain the double fare, charged only at Christmas and New Year.

- 4.5 The final proposed change to the tariff is to reduce the implementation time of the night rate from 10.30pm to 9pm.

**5 RETAIL PRICE INDEX**

- 5.1 At a previous Committee Meeting, Members agreed that to determine future fare tariff reviews, the retail price index should be considered together with any other additional relevant information and these are as follows: -

	<b>Index @ 1 April 03</b>	<b>Index @ 1 April 04</b>	
General RPI	181.2	184.6	(1.9%)
RPIX	180.0	182.5	(1.4%)
CPI	109.7	110.6	(0.8%)

**Additional Information**

Pensions	2004 increased by 2.8%
Council Tax	2004 increased by 6.2%
Taxi Insurance	2004 no increase

- 5.2 The Hackney Carriage Drivers Association are proposing an increase, which averages around 8%. This is in excess of the RPI and the additional information shown above.
- 5.3 The reasons for the larger increase this year is to compensate for last years tariff change, which was a decrease over the first 2 miles and an average of 1% increase from 3 to 5 miles. There was, however, a marked increase to the extras that are charged on Sundays, bank holidays and between 10.30pm and 6am and for luggage and extra passengers.

**6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

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. There would therefore be a limited service at the Transportation Department whilst the meter testing takes place.

**7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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.

**8 IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

An appropriate implementation date will be arranged when the fare tariff has been approved by Members and any objections received have been considered. This is likely to be around the beginning of September 2004.

**9 RECOMMENDATION**

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

S J Clarkson

Head of Revenue and Housing Management

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**Background Papers:**

A Letter requesting a fare increase from the Association of Circuit Company Owners in the Rochford District (A.C.C.O.R.D) supported by the chairman of the Hackney Carriage Drivers Association.

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