

## HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE INCREASE

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is to consider a request from the Rochford Hackney Carriage Drivers' Association for an increase to 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 The trade originally submitted a request in September 2005, which was presented to this Sub-Committee on 2 November 2005. Members resolved, however, that the meeting be adjourned to enable the provision of further factual information.
- 2.3 The meeting was re-scheduled for 3 November 2005, where Members were presented with an updated version of appendix 3 that included comparisons with other Essex Authorities. There were minor amendments to appendix 3 following fare increases in neighbouring Authorities since the completion of the report.
- 2.4 The taxi trade's proposal was to introduce a booking fee and to increase the night charge. Members decided, however, not to accept the booking fee and to amend the night rate commencement time from 10.30 pm to 11pm. A representative from the taxi trade indicated at this point that they wished to withdraw the proposals, as the increase was not accepted by Members as a whole.
- 2.5 It was suggested by Members that the taxi trade submit a further request based on an across the board increase that would benefit the day and night time drivers.
- 2.6 It was also suggested that the proposal should take into account that the taxi drivers had no fare increase in 2005 and that this fare increase proposal should be for the period up to October 2007. This would negate the need for two increases within one year, but the suggested 4% increase for the year would be higher as it would cover a 2-year period.
- 2.7 The taxi trade were satisfied with this suggestion and have confirmed this in their proposal letter attached at appendix 5.

### 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; the comparison from other Essex Authorities is attached at Appendix 3; the percentage increase from the current tariff to the proposed tariff is attached at Appendix 4; and a copy of the

Authorised fare increase proposal letter from the Taxi Association is attached at Appendix 5.

#### 4 PROPOSED FARE INCREASE

- 4.1 The proposal is for an 8% increase achieved by increasing the start rate from £2.30 to £2.50 and to amend the distance slightly to obtain a steady % increase over short and long journeys. This will give an average fare increase of 8.13% as requested by the taxi trade. There are no proposals to change any of the extra charges.
- 4.2 The last fare increase was in September 2004. Members will notice that this new proposal is higher than usual to take into account there was no fare increase last year and that it is for the period up to October 2007. Appendix 3 shows the comparisons from other Authorities. However, unlike Rochford, they will all be due for a further fare increase in 2006.

#### 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 other additional relevant information, and these are shown below. It is important to remember that the retail price index and additional information shown is for 2004/05 and that the proposed fare increase is for the period up to October 2007 which cannot be shown at this time.

	Index at 01/04/04	Index at 01/04/05	%age increase
<b>Retail Price Index</b>	184.6	191.6	3.7
<b>Retail Price Index (excluding mortgages)</b>	182.5	187.8	2.9
<b>Consumer Price Index</b>	110.6	113.1	2.2

#### Additional Information

Pensions increased in 2004 by 2.8% and increased in 2005 by 3.1%

Rochford Council Tax increased in 2004 by 6.2% and increased in 2005 by 4.93%

This information has been included as Members have found it a useful guide to inflation in the past

**6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Transportation staff are required to test all the taxi meters, once the fare increase is implemented, to ensure that all taxi meters have been upgraded and are calibrated correctly. This must be completed on the implementation day, as hackney carriage proprietors are not permitted to work after this day unless the meter has been tested and approved. There would be a reduced service in the Transportation Team whilst the meter testing takes place.

**7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 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.

**8 IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

- 8.1 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.

**9 RECOMMENDATION**

- 9.1 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:-**

None.

For further information please contact Joanne Crawford on:-

Tel:- 01702 318166

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

---

**ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976**

**MAXIMUM AUTHORISED FARES AND CHARGES**

**Commencing 2 September 2004 until further notice**

*Also applicable to Private Hire Vehicles fitted with Taximeters*

**DISTANCE OR TIME**

For the first 882 yards (806.50 metres) or the first 3 minutes 12 seconds  
(or a combination of parts of such distance or time ) 230p

For each additional 286 yards (261.50 metres) or 60  
Seconds (or a combination of parts of such distance or time)  
until a fare of £6.70 is shown on the taximeter. 20p

For each additional 207 yards (186.53 metres) or 45 seconds  
(or a combination of parts of such distance or time)  
when a fare of £6.70 is shown on the taximeter. 20p

For hiring's begun between 9.00pm on 24 December and 6.00am on 27  
December and between 9.00pm on 31 December and 6.00am on  
2 January. Double Fares

**EXTRA CHARGES**

For hiring's begun between 10.30pm and 6.00am also on Sundays and  
Bank Holidays between 6.00am and midnight (except during Christmas  
and New Year period). 160p

For all items carried in the luggage compartment. (maximum charge) 40p

For animals carried (except assistance dogs). 40p

For each passenger carried in excess of one. 40p

Despoilment charge. (up to maximum) £75

---

**ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976**

**MAXIMUM AUTHORISED FARES AND CHARGES**

**Commencing date to be arranged**

*Also applicable to Private Hire Vehicles fitted with Taximeters*

**DISTANCE OR TIME**

For the first 680 yards (621.79 metres) or the first 2 minutes 56 seconds  
(or a combination of parts of such distance or time) 250p

For each additional 275 yards (251.46 metres) or 55  
Seconds (or a combination of parts of such distance or time)  
until a fare of £6.70 is shown on the taximeter. 20p

For each additional 190 yards (173.736 metres) or 45 seconds  
(or a combination of parts of such distance or time)  
when a fare of £6.70 is shown on the taximeter. 20p

For hiring's begun between 9.00pm on 24 December and 6.00am on 27  
December and between 9.00pm on 31 December and 6.00am on  
2 January. Double Fares  
(Normal Extras)

**EXTRA CHARGES**

For hiring's begun between 10.30pm and 6.00am also on Sundays and  
Bank Holidays between 6.00am and midnight (except during Christmas  
and New Year period). 160p

For all items carried in the luggage compartment. (maximum charge) 40p

For animals carried (except assistance dogs). 40p

For each passenger carried in excess of one. 40p

Despoilment charge. (up to maximum) £75

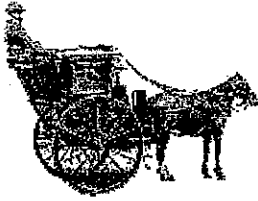
Name of Authority	Implementation Date	1 Mile	2 Miles	3 Miles	4 Miles
Rochford D.C (Current)	1-Sep-04	3.10	4.30	5.50	6.70
Rochford D.C (Proposed)	To be arranged	3.30	4.70	5.90	7.30
Basildon District Council	1-Sep-05	3.00	4.60	6.00	7.60
Brentwood District Council	1-Dec-05	3.40	5.20	7.20	9.20
Castle Point Borough Council	1-Nov-05	2.80	4.40	6.00	7.60

Chelmsford Borough Council	1-Jul-05	3.40	4.90	6.40	7.90
Colchester Borough Council	1-Nov-04	3.40	4.80	6.00	7.20
Harlow District Council	1-Apr-05	3.60	4.80	6.00	7.00
Southend on Sea B.C	1-Sep-05	3.20	4.60	5.80	7.20
Thurrock Council	1-Oct-05	3.40	4.80	6.20	7.60

**Comparison Fares for 1-4 Mile Journeys  
Between the Current and Proposed Fare Tariff**

Distance	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff	% Increase
Start rate	2.30	2.50	8.69%
1 Mile	3.10	3.30	6.45%
2 Miles	4.30	4.70	9.30%
3 Miles	5.50	5.90	7.27%
4 Miles	6.70	7.30	8.95%

The comparisons do not take into consideration any waiting time that may be accumulated during the journey.



## Rochford Hackney Carriage Drivers Association

---

8 November 2005

Hackney Carriage Office  
Civic Suite  
2 Hockley Road  
Rayleigh  
Essex SS6 8BE

For the attention of Joanne Crawford, Hackney Carriage Officer

Dear Joanne

**Re: Proposed Increase in Fare Tariff 2005**

I write with regard to our meeting with Rochford District Council (RDC) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2005.

Because RDC would not accept the price increase package for 2005 in its entirety, the Rochford Hackney Carriage Drivers Association (RHDCDA) had to withdraw it. To accept it in part would be unfair on a day driver who would have to pay to change the meter tariff but not receive any financial benefit for doing so.

The RHDCDA therefore, has put forward the proposal to increase the tariff by 4% leaving all extras and times as they were. If accepted this would be implemented sometime in February 2006, some six months late, as usually price increases are implemented in September/October.

As the RHDCDA would be applying for the 2006 increase to be implemented in September/October 2006, this would mean two increases in one year. Therefore, the RHDCDA is asking for an increase of 8% to be implemented in February/March 2006, which would last until September 2007. Thus saving two increases in one year. In doing this it would also save RDC and the Hackney Carriage Office a significant amount of time.

/cont...

**Chairman:** Martin J Chaplin  
**Tel:** 07929800316

8 Park Gardens, Hawkwell, Hockley, Essex SS5 4HE



We would like to point out that:

1. There has been no increase since September 2004
2. Fuel prices have risen dramatically
3. An increase of 8% over two years is less than a 4% year on year increase
4. The public would not suffer as they will have had six months through the winter at the old 2004 rate and six months at the new rate

In future, we suggest that we submit out proposals by the 31<sup>st</sup> March each year for consideration by the Sub-committee in July, referral to the Policy Committee in September and implementation in October.

Yours sincerely

**M J Chaplin**