

## **ANNUAL REVIEW OF TAXI FARES**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Members to consider review of taxi fares in District and to approve a schedule to be effective from 2 October 2000.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The Council has the powers to fix the fare structure for Hackney Carriages licensed by it. Although no Private Hire Vehicles are currently fitted with Taximeters, the Council normally requires that those so fitted adopt the same Tariff as that approved for Hackney Carriages. The fare structure is reviewed annually, the last review being conducted on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1999 when the Second Tariff was amended. Any amendments to the Fare Structure must be advertised in the Local Press and objections sought; increases normally take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October annually but, because that day will fall on a Sunday this year, the Year 2000 changes will commence on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.
- 2.2 Changes to the Tariff agreed in 1998 and 1999 collectively brought the fare structure in line with the price index for transport. In the year since the last review, two factors have adversely affected the costs of operating Hackney Carriages. These are:
- 1) the withdrawal of a major insurance company from the insurance market for Hackney Carriages with the remaining Companies substantially increasing premiums, some by in excess of £400.00 per annum
  - 2) increased vehicle maintenance and fuel costs.

### **3 CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 A Taxi Trade Survey Form (Appendix 1) was distributed with the Spring Issue of "The Knowledge" distributed to all 308 Licensed Drivers (including Private Hire). In addition to requiring all Drivers to complete the Personal Details Section to ensure Council records were up-to-date, space was provided to allow views to be expressed on changes to the Fare Structure (Hackney Carriage Drivers only) and other matters (all the Licensed Trade). Fifty-two Forms were returned before the Spring meeting of the Taxi Trade Forum that was hosted by the Hackney Carriage Office on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2000 with Councillor Fox, Chairman of the Transportation Sub Committee present. Four Forms

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related to Private Hire matters, some Forms were incomplete/ignored the Consultation Section. Eleven Drivers and/or Circuit Proprietors attended the Forum Meeting. This was one less than the previous Spring meeting of the Forum. It was disappointing to note some Drivers had tabled questions for the Meeting but failed to attend.

3.2 In 1999 amendments were made to reflect the Millennium Celebrations which now require revision. Views were expressed on the commencement time for double Tariff at Christmas and the New Year reverting from 18:00 to 21:00, the majority favouring 9.00 pm.

3.3 It is possible to achieve a tariff increase which would meet the aspirations of the Taxi Trade by the following amendments for the three elements of the Tariff (previous figures in brackets):

Amend Flag Rate to:

180p (160p) Distance 320 yards (352 yards) % Increase = 21.58%

Amend First Tariff to:

10p ..(20p) Distance 160 yards (352 yards) % Increase = 10.00%

Second Tariff commences from 4 mile point of journey

Amend Second Tariff to:

30p ..(20p) Distance 352 yards (251.4 yards) % Increase = 7.14%

#### **4 ALTERATIONS TO EXTRAS:**

1) Where an animal is carried loose in the vehicle: 100p  
*This is intended to reflect any cleaning implication after the animal has been carried.*

Where an animal is contained in a cage/box: 20p  
*This is the existing charge retained where animals are not carried loose in the vehicle.*

2 Where a party is conveyed in one vehicle and the number of persons exceeds 4: 40p per person  
*Representations have been made to reflect the higher operational costs of multi person vehicles (MPVs) The existing 20p remains in place for saloon derived vehicles..*

#### **5 DESPOILMENT CHARGE**

5.1 This is currently £60.00 and does not form part of the Tariff. The Council cannot determine the amount but it has become custom and practise to formally recognise the costs involved if a vehicle is soiled causing it to be taken out of service. An increase to £75.00 is not

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considered unreasonable and is specified as a maximum figure, a lesser charge being imposed as appropriate.

Effect of Proposed Tariff Changes (The average journey is 3 miles):

1 Mile Journey	Existing Charge (One Passenger)			
£2.40	Revised Charge	£ 2.70	Increase	12.50%
2 Mile Journey				
£3.40	Revised Charge	£ 3.80	Increase	11.76%
3 Mile Journey				
£4.40	Revised Charge	£ 4.90	Increase	11.36%
4 Mile Journey				
£5.40	Revised Charge	£ 6.00	Increase	11.11%
5 Mile Journey				
£6.80	Revised Charge	£ 7.50	Increase	10.29%
8 Mile Journey				
£11.00	Revised Charge	£12.00	Increase	9.09%

- 5.2 The Tariff currently in force is shown in Appendix 2 and the proposed Tariff effective from 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2000 in Appendix 3.

## **6 FINANCIAL & RESOURCES IMPLICATION**

- 6.1 Provision is contained within the Hackney Carriage Office Budget for advertising the revised Tariff and material provision associated with the implementation.

## **7 RECOMMENDATION**

It is proposed the Sub Committee **RESOLVES:**

- 1 That the revised Tariff for Hackney Carriages & meter fitted Private Hire Cars as set out in Appendix 3 be approved
- 2 That the Head of Service proceeds to advertise the new fare structure to come into force on 2 October 2000. (HRHM)

Steve Clarkson

Head of Revenue and Housing Management

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**Background Papers:**

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

For further information please contact Frank Spence on (01702) 546366

## TAXI TRADE SURVEY FOR 2000/2001

1

**PLEASE RETURN TO HACKNEY CARRIAGE OFFICE BY 21<sup>st</sup> April 2000**

2	<b>IN ORDER TO ENSURE OUR RECORDS ARE UP-TO-DATE PLEASE COMPLETE THE DETAILS BELOW. ALL DRIVERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE &amp; RETURN THIS SECTION OF THE SURVEY.</b>	
3		
4	<b>PLEASE ENTER YOUR FULL NAME:</b>	
	DRIVER BADGE NUMBER:	PLATE No. OF TAXI YOU DRIVE:
	DRIVER BADGE NUMBER:	PLATE No. OF P/HIRE VEHICLE:
	YOUR PRESENT ADDRESS:	
	POSTCODE:	
	TELEPHONE No:	MOBILE 'PHONE No:

**5 (A) TARIFF CHANGES (For Drivers of Meter Fitted Vehicles Only)**

You are invited to express your views on possible changes to the Fare Tariff to take effect from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2000. Please read the accompanying copy of The Knowledge before completing this Form.

**Please indicate below if you favour the following changes:**

- 1 Revert commencement time for Double Tariff at Christmas & New Year to 9.00pm from 6.00pm.  
AGREE/DISAGREE
- 2 Reinstate Double Tariff between 9.00pm on 31<sup>st</sup> December & 6.00am on 2<sup>nd</sup> January.  
AGREE/DISAGREE
- 3 Increase the Flag Rate (currently £1.60 for 1/5 mile) by:
  - I Amount for existing Distance AGREE/DISAGREE  
If AGREE please specify an amount £
  - II Amount and Distance AGREE/DISAGREE  
If AGREE please specify:  
Amount £  
Distance :
- 4 Do you agree to change the First Tariff to the 4 Mile Point?  
AGREE/DISAGREE

The current Rate after the first 1/5 Mile is 20p per 1/5 Mile last revised in 1998. (10p per 160 yards would increase this by 10p for every complete mile.)

If you AGREE what change would you propose: Amount £

Distance:

5 Do you agree to change the Second Tariff beyond the 4 Mile Point?

AGREE/DISAGREE

The current Rate after the 4-Mile Point is 20p per 1/7 mile last revised in 1999. (30p per 1/5 mile would increase this by 10p for every complete mile.)

If you AGREE what change would you propose:

Amount £

Distance :

6 Do you want any amendments to the "Extras"? The current charges are:

"Extra Charges" currently at night/Sundays/Bank Holidays are set at £1.00 except at Christmas & New Year periods.

Standard Extras are currently:

Each animal carried is 20p (excluding Guide & Hearing Dogs).

Passengers in excess of 1 = 20p per person/in excess of 4 persons to a maximum of 8 persons = 40p per person.

When hire starts from other than a Hackney Carriage Rank the charge is 20p.

COMMENTS:

7 OTHER PROPOSALS:


6 (B) ITEMS FOR FORUM AGENDA (All Drivers)

Please indicate any items you wish to be included on the Agenda for the Trade Forum on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2000


**HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES**  
**With effect from 1<sup>ST</sup> October 1999**

**DISTANCE OR TIME**

For the first 322 metres (352 yards/1/5 mile) or the first 1 min. 30 seconds (or a combination of parts of such distance or time).	160p.
For each additional 322 metres (352 yards/1/5 mile) or 1 min. 30 seconds (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) until a fare of £5.60 is SHOWN on the taxi meter.	20p.
For each additional 230 metres (251.4 yards/1/7 mile) or 1 min. (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) when a fare of £5.60 is shown on the taxi meter.	20p.
For hirings begun between 6.00pm on the 24 <sup>th</sup> December 1999 and 6.00am on 27 <sup>th</sup> December 1999 and between noon on 1st January 2000 and 6.00am on 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2000.	Double fare plus standard extras
For hirings begun between 6.00pm on 31 <sup>st</sup> December 1999 and noon on 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2000.	Quadruple fare excluding extras

Extra Charges

For hirings begun between 9.00pm and 6.00am, also on Sundays and Bank Holidays between 6.00am and midnight <b><u>EXCEPT</u></b> during Christmas and New Year periods.	100p.
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Standard Extras

For luggage carried outside the passenger compartment.	20p.	(Maximum Charge)
No charge for disabled persons' wheelchairs.		
For every animal carried No charge for guide dogs or hearing dogs.	20p.	
For each passenger in excess of one to a maximum of four passengers.	20p.	
For each passenger in excess of four to a maximum of eight passengers.	40p.	
Where the hirer arranges in advance by letter, telephone or otherwise with the proprietor or driver prior to the commencement of hiring for hire of the carriage to commence from a stated place other than a Hackney Carriage Stand.	20p.	
Specific requests for the delivery of property left in taxis must be paid for at the metered fare.		
Despoilment Charge	£60 Max.	

**PROPOSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES**  
**Commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2000**

**DISTANCE OR TIME**

For the first 292.6 metres (320 yards/2/11 mile) or the first 1 min. 30 seconds (or a combination of parts of such distance or time).	180p.
For each additional 146.3 metres (160 yards/1/11 mile) or 45 seconds (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) until a fare of £6.30 is SHOWN on the taxi meter.	10p.
For each additional 321.86 metres (352 yards/1/5 mile) or 1 min. 40 seconds (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) when a fare of £6.30 is shown on the taxi meter.	30p.
For hirings begun between 9.00pm on the 24 <sup>th</sup> December And 6.00am on 27 <sup>th</sup> December and between 9.00pm on 31 <sup>st</sup> December and 6.00am on 2 <sup>nd</sup> January.	Double fare plus standard extras

Extra Charges

For hirings begun between 9.00pm and 6.00am, also on Sundays and Bank Holidays between 6.00am and midnight <b><u>EXCEPT</u></b> during Christmas and New Year periods.	100p.
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Standard Extras

For luggage carried outside the passenger compartment.	20p. (Maximum Charge)
No charge for disabled persons' wheelchairs.	
For every animal carried loose in vehicle	100p
For every animal carried in a container	20p.
No charge for guide dogs or hearing dogs.	
For each passenger in excess of one to a maximum of four passengers.	20p.
For each passenger where the party exceeds four to a maximum of eight passengers.	40p
Where the hirer arranges in advance by letter, telephone or otherwise with the proprietor or driver prior to the commencement of hiring for hire of the carriage to commence from a stated place other than a Hackney Carriage Stand.	20p.
Specific requests for the delivery of property left in taxis must be paid for at the metered fare.	
Despoilment Charge	£75 Max.