

HACKNEY CARRIAGE TARIFF REVIEW

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members to consider a review of taxi fares in the District and to approve the schedule and effective date.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Council has 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 prefers that those so fitted adopt the same tariff as that approved for Hackney Carriages.
- 2.2 The fare structure was last reviewed on 7 June 2000 and was implemented from 2 October 2000. Any amendment to the tariff must be advertised in the local press and objections sought. Any objection must be referred back to the Committee for consideration. If the tariff is not confirmed and further amended it must be re-advertised and the process repeated.
- 2.3 Members, when reviewing the fare structure for the period commencing 2 October 2000, resolved that future increases would be linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI) for motor transport costs. The report considered by the Sub-Committee on 20 June 2001 did not fit that criteria and was rejected.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Members of the trade were invited within the Council's Newsletter "The Knowledge", to submit proposals for amending the current tariff. No submissions were made and the matter was included on the Agenda of the Taxi Forum held on 10 April 2001.
- 3.2 Discussion at the Taxi Forum established an increase throughout the fare structure was desired. The taxi trade is continuing to service rising insurance costs, higher circuit fees (radio rent, etc) and general expenses. Any alteration requires the taximeter to be re-programmed at a cost of approximately £20 plus VAT
- 3.3 The revised tariff contained in this report has not been considered by the Taxi Licensing Working Group; however, drivers and operators have had the opportunity to contribute to the debate as outlined in 3.1 and 3.2 above and 4.2 below.
- 3.4 The RPI figure for transport has increased by 3.6% (April 2000 to April 2001).

4 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It has been generally agreed in the past that the cost per distance unit should be in any multiple of 10p to avoid change-giving difficulties.
- 4.2 The taxi trade is anxious to retain the initial flag rate of £1.80 and this is reflected in the tariff.
- 4.3 Tariff Amendments – Year 2001/2002

Distance or Time

For the first 201.16 metres (220 yards) or the first 1 minute 02 seconds (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) 180p

For each additional 283.46 metres (310 yards) or 1 minute 27 seconds (or a combination of parts of such (distance or time) until a fare of £6.40 is shown on the taximeter. 20p

For each additional 207.11 metres (226.5 yards) or 1 minute 5 seconds (or a combination of parts of such (distance or time) when a fare of £6.40 is shown on the taximeter. 20p

- 4.4 No alterations are proposed in respect of extras or the despoilment charge.

5 EFFECT OF CHANGES PROPOSED TO TARIFF

- 5.1 The average journey is 3 miles.

1 mile journey (one passenger)

Existing charge £2.70

Revised charge £2.79

Percentage increase

3.44%

3 mile journey (one passenger)

Existing charge £4.90

Revised charge £5.06

Percentage increase

3.34%

4 mile journey (one passenger)

Existing charge £6.00

Revised charge £6.20

Percentage increase

3.33%

5 mile journey (one passenger)

Existing charge £7.50

Revised charge £7.75

Percentage increase

3.38%

- 5.2 For comparison purposes the charges of neighbouring Authorities is given on Appendix 1.

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- 5.3 The tariff will remain designated as “a maximum” allowing discounts to be legitimately offered.
- 5.4 The tariff would normally come into force early in October but this will not be possible this year. If an advertisement is placed immediately after the Sub-Committee and no objections are received then it could be introduced around 1 November 2001.

6 FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 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

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) That the revised tariff for Hackney Carriages and meter fitted Private Hire Cars as set out in this report be approved.
 - (2) That the Head of Service proceeds to advertise the new fare structure to come into force on 1 November 2001. (HRHM)

S J Clarkson

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Background Papers:

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

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Appendix 1

Comparison of Standard Fares

Authority	1Mile £	3Miles £	4Miles £	5Miles £	Last Review
Castle Point	2.60	5.00	6.20	7.80	01-Dec-00
Basildon	2.20	4.60	5.80	7.00	29-Nov-00
Southend	2.40	4.80	6.00	7.60	Nov-00
Chelmsford	2.30	4.60	5.80	7.40	Apr-01
Brentwood	2.60	6.70	8.30	9.90	12-Dec-00
*Maldon					

* No tariffs are set by this Council