

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: Cabinet	REPORT NUMBER: BCa/22/42
FROM: Licensing and Regulatory Committee	DATE OF MEETING: 6th February 2023
OFFICER: Neil Gardiner, Interim Licensing Team Leader	KEY DECISION REF NO. CAB394

CONSULTATION OF A REVISED TABLE OF FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 That Cabinet consider this report and determine whether to vary the maximum fares that may be charged by Hackney carriage proprietors,

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED.

- 2.1 Consider whether to:

- i. Modify the tariff table of maximum fares and proposed changes or;
- ii. Make no modification to the tariff table of maximum fares.

- 2.2 Members may choose to modify the current tariff table of maximum fares. The date upon which the modifications to the maximum fares take effect shall be one month after the end of the fourteen-day statutory consultation period if no adverse representations are received.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Cabinet agree a new tariff table of maximum fares. Members are asked to approve a new tariff table of maximum fares with the following changes:

- i. Miles & 1/10th Mile, replacing yards
- ii. Tariff 1 reverts to tariff 2 (+50%) at 22:30 hrs each day instead of 23:00 hrs
- iii. Tariff 4 is shown as an extra, due to size of vehicle/time of day, usage over 365 days of the year.

- 3.2 That Licensing & Regulatory Committee having considered the options contained in the report, recommend Option 2 to Cabinet to vary the tariff table of maximum fares that may be charged by Hackney Carriage proprietors using a new table – miles & 1/10th Mile. Options presented were as follows,

- i. No change to the current fare tariff
- ii. Increase to the first mile and each 1/10th mile
- iii. Increase to the first mile only
- iv. Increase or decrease to the suggested fees

REASON FOR DECISION

- 3.3 To decide on the preferred option and to undertake a public consultation exercise on a revised tariff table of maximum fares for Hackney Carriages within the District and to decide on the most concise, transparent fare table for the public to interpret.
- 3.4 It is widely understood that the cost of living has increased with higher transportation costs since the last rise in fares in June 2021.

4. KEY INFORMATION

- 4.1 Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 enables the council to undertake this function and requires that before any alteration to the tariff table can take effect a public notice explaining the changes must be placed in a local newspaper. The public then must be provided with a period of at least 14 days to make comment on the proposals. If no adverse comment/objection is received, the approved changes must take effect. Alternatively, if adverse comment/objection is received then the matter must be returned to allow the Committee to consider the representation(s). Providing members agree to modify the fare tariff table at today's meeting, it is proposed a public notice will be published in a local newspaper explaining the changes and inviting observations.
- 4.2 The Cabinet will be aware that the Hackney fare tariff tables were previously presented to committee in June 2021 for Babergh.
- 4.3 On 27th September 2022 officers from the Licensing Department polled the taxi trade for two weeks on the concept of a combined table of fares for both districts, (Babergh and Mid-Suffolk) and to facilitate this modification If a change from yards to miles would be favorable as each tariff accounts at different yardage. The poll is attached as **Appendix A**.
- 4.4 [However, on the 17th November 2022 during the newly formed Taxi Panel the prospect of a dual amalgamated fare was vetoed by Mid-Suffolk drivers as they access their meters differently to Babergh drivers.]
- 4.5 On 12th October 2022 officers from the Licensing Department polled the Hackney vehicle trade on four potential fare options. For drivers' convenience two new tariff tables of maximum fares showing the actual increase have been drafted, [using miles] displaying the potential increases. (Option 1, Option 2 Option 3 and Option 4 below). This is attached as **Appendix B**.
- 4.6 As Members will already be aware of the current tariff table of maximum fares, a new illustration table is displayed below with a clear tariff key.

The options presented were:

- i. No Change to the current table of fares. (Option one).
- ii. An Increase on the initial mile and each 1/10th mile thereafter: (Option two)
- iii. Increase fee on the initial mile only. (Option three)
- iv. A percentage increase or decrease than the one suggested. (Option four)

- 4.7 **Option 1, no change to the current fare tariff(s).**
Babergh = £6.26 - 2 miles.

4.8 Option 2, Increase the first mile and each 1/10th mile.

Tariff 1 Daytime. Tariff 07:00 to 22:30 hrs

Tariff 2 Evening. Tariff 1 + 50%. (22:30 – 07:00 hrs) & (Non Xmas/NYE **Bank Holidays (B/H)**)

Tariff 3 Tariff 1 +100%. Midnight to Midnight. **(B/H)** [Passenger number dependant].

Passengers 1-4 07.00 – 22.30 hrs **Tariff 1**
22:30 – 07:00 hrs daily **or Bank Holidays, (excl the below) Tariff 2**

18:00 hrs 24th Dec - 07:00 hrs 27th Dec **Tariff 3**

18:00 hrs 31st Jan - 07:00 hrs 2nd Jan **Tariff 3**

Passengers 5-8 07:00 - 22:30 hrs. **Tariff 2.**
22:30 – 07:00 hrs daily **or Bank Holidays (excl Christmas and New Year).**
Tariff 3.

Description.	Tariff 1 (£)	Tariff 2 (£)	Tariff 3 (£)
For the whole distance (1st mile or part thereof)	£5.00	£7.50	£10.00
For each subsequent 1/10th mile	£0.20	£0.30	£0.40
Waiting time – for each period of one minute	£0.33	£0.50	£0.66
2-mile journey costs	£7.00	£10.50	£14.00

Extras: Any Toll Road charges
5-8 passengers: Christmas and NYE
18:00 hrs 24th Dec - 07:00 hrs 27th Dec, tariff 1 +150%
18:00 hrs 31st Jan - 07:00 hrs 2nd Jan, tariff 1 +150%

4.9 Option 3, Increase the first mile only.

Tariff 1 Daytime. Tariff 07:00 to 22:30 hrs

Tariff 2 Evening. Tariff 1 + 50%. (22:30 – 07:00 hrs) & (Non Xmas/NYE **Bank Holidays (B/H)**)

Tariff 3 Tariff 1 +100%. Midnight to Midnight. **(B/H)** [Passenger number dependant].

Passengers 1-4 07.00 – 22.30 hrs **Tariff 1**
22:30 – 07:00 hrs daily **or Bank Holidays**, (excl the below) **Tariff 2**

18:00 hrs 24th Dec - 07:00 hrs 27th Dec **Tariff 3**

18:00 hrs 31st Jan - 07:00 hrs 2nd Jan **Tariff 3**

Passengers 5-8 07:00 - 22:30 hrs. **Tariff 2.**
22:30 – 07:00 hrs daily **or Bank Holidays** (excl Christmas and New Year).
Tariff 3.

Description	Tariff 1 (£)	Tariff 2 (£)	Tariff 3 (£)
For the whole distance (1st mile or part thereof)	£5.00	£7.50	£10.00
For each subsequent 1/10th mile	£0.18	£0.27	£0.36
Waiting time – for each period of one minute	£0.30	£0.45	£0.60
2-mile journey costs	£6.80	£10.20	£13.60

Extras: Any Toll Road charges
5-8 passengers: Christmas and NYE
18:00 hrs 24th Dec - 07:00 hrs 27th Dec, tariff 1+150%
18:00 hrs 31st Jan - 07:00 hrs 2nd Jan, tariff 1 +150%

4.10 Option 4, a further price increase or decrease than the one proposed.

4.11 On this occasion 64 drivers viewed the poll with 32 responses. Representing 50% participation. Driver emails are attached as **Appendix C**.

I. What fare option do you think is correct for the trade.

- **Option 1** - 6%
- **Option 2** - 59%
- **Option 3** - 6%
- **Option 4** - 21%
- **No reply given** 6%

4.12 When considering the options, Members are reminded that the tariff that is set should be regarded as the maximum fares that can be charged. Taxi proprietors are not tied to charging the maximum fare but are not permitted to charge more than the tariff price shown on the meter. Market forces are known to come into play, and for instance because of the level of competition in Babergh the driver/ proprietor may decide to charge less than the maximum tariff. The current tariff table of maximum fares is shown as **Appendix D**.

4.13 Officers have researched and produced a comparison table of current fares set by neighbouring authorities in Norfolk & Suffolk.

The comparison table takes into account the position of highest to lowest fares set by all 350 licensing authorities in England and Wales based upon costs of the first two miles of the journey. The data is prepared by the national Private Hire and Taxi Monthly magazine and varies daily.

Comparison. Correct as of 12.10.22	2 miles costs	National table 350
Breckland District Council	£8.00	35
Kings Lynn & West Norfolk	£7.00	142
Broadland District Council (proposed)	un-listed	
South Norfolk Council (proposed)	un-listed	
Great Yarmouth BC	£8.50	11
North Norfolk DC	£5.80	307
Norwich City Council	£6.60	211
Ipswich BC	£6.55	216
East Suffolk (North)	£8.40	12
East Suffolk (South)	£6.20	253
Babergh Mid Suffolk	£6.26	249
West Suffolk	£7.20	119

4.14 If option 2 was implemented Babergh would move into position 134 from 249, as the table fluctuates daily. Dated at time of writing, 17th January 2023.

5. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN

5.1 These licensing functions most closely align with:

- supporting businesses to thrive and grow, with a particular emphasis on smaller and start-up concerns.
- encouraging employable skills (local transport and public service standards);
- supporting safe and active communities; and
- co-ordinating our approach to regulation with Suffolk County Council to minimise the burdens on local business (particularly through the safety and suitability arrangements the District/Boroughs have together with the County, in respect to school transport and social service contracts).

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This is a statutory function, and the legislation provides for recovery of the reasonable costs of administration, inspection and supervision of the licensing scheme.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 As explained earlier, section 65 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows the District Council to fix the table of fares for the hiring of Hackney Carriage vehicles throughout the district. Section 65 (2) requires that the Council shall publish its intention to vary the table of fares for the hiring of a hackney carriage vehicle in at least one local newspaper informing of a consultation period of at least 14 days.

The notice of variation will also be made available on the Council's website and will be available for inspection at the offices of the Council. If no objections are received, the variation may be brought into force at the end of that period. However, if any objections are received, these must be considered by the committee as set out in paragraph 5.1.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

There are no associated risks with a fare review of the Hackney Carriage maximum fare.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 Should Members approve any change to the current table of fares, section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1976 requires that before any alteration to the tariff table can take effect, a public notice explaining the changes must be placed in a local newspaper and a consultation conducted for a minimum of 14 days. If no adverse comment/objection is received, the approved changes can take effect. Alternatively, if adverse comment/objection is received then the matter must be returned to allow this Committee to consider the representation(s). Following consideration of the representations, the Committee, at that meeting, must set a date when the fares come into effect. **Appendix E** details the list of organisational consultees in addition to the public consultation

10. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

- 10.1 There are no equality implications arising directly from this report. This is a revision to an existing fare scheme. The council recognises its obligations under the Equality Act 2010, in the exercise of its licensing functions, and shall have due regard to any comments received during the consultation, or individual applications, on equality issues.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no environmental Implications arising from this report.

12. APPENDICES

Title	Location
(a) Appendix A - Combined poll tariff	Attached
(b) Appendix B - Hackney fare tariff	Attached
(c) Appendix C - Driver email responses.	Attached
(d) Appendix D - Existing table of fares for hackney carriages - Babergh	Attached
(e) Appendix E - List of Consultees	Attached

13. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS.

13.1 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

13.2 [National Hackney Fare Tables For 2 Mile Fare Tariff.](#)

14. REPORT AUTHORS

14.1 Licensing Officer - Neil Gardiner