LICENSING AND REGULATION COMMITTEE

4 October 2016

REVIEW OF FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES

REPORT OF HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & LICENSING

Contact Officer: Anya Pyke Tel No: 01962 848443

RECENT REFERENCES:

LR 365 - Review of Fares for Hackney Carriages, 9 June 2011

LR 347 - Review of Fares for Hackney Carriages, 1 December 2010

LR 285 – Review of Fares for Hackney Carriages, 3 December 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Hackney Carriage fares were last reviewed by the Licensing and Regulation Committee on 9 June 2011. Members resolved that, subject to the statutory requirements for advertising and dealing with objections, the fares be varied to increase the first 660 yards to £2.80 and a charge of 20p for each subsequent 170 yards. There was no increase to the 'Waiting Time' or 'Extra Charges'.

The current fares, excluding fouling charge, are those that took effect on 4 July 2011.

The maximum fares for Hackney Carriages are set by the Council and have regard to the underlying inflation rates, changes to costs incurred by Hackney Carriage owners and the consequences to their paying passengers.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- That consideration be given as to whether the maximum fares of Hackney Carriages should be or should not be varied at this time.
- That, if it is considered that the fares should be varied then, subject to the statutory requirements for advertising and dealing with objections, fares which may be charged by Hackney Carriage drivers in the area of Winchester City Council be varied, with effect from 5 December 2016.

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DETAIL:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The maximum fares for Hackney Carriages in this District are set by the Council. The last increase in hackney fares took effect on 4 July 2011. There was no increase to the fouling charge at this time, which was increased on 1 February 2011.
- 1.2 Prior to this, Members reviewed the fares at the Licensing and Regulation Committee held on 1 December 2010 and on this occasion it was resolved that there should be no increase in the maximum fares at that time.
- 1.3 When considering whether there should be any increase in the fares the Council considers the underlying inflation rates, changes to costs incurred by the Hackney Carriage owners and the consequences to fare paying passengers.
- 1.4 The maximum Hackney Carriage fares have not been reviewed in the last 5 years and, therefore, the Forum representatives on behalf of the trade have requested that the fares set by the Council be reviewed.

2 Current Fares

2.1 The current maximum fares are:

Distance

For the first 660 yards (603 meters) of part thereof £2.80 For each succeeding 170 yards (155 meters) or part thereof 20p

Waiting

For each 1 minute waiting period a maximum of 25p

Extra Charges

For each hiring that commences between 11pm and 6am or at any time on Bank or Public Holidays or after 6.30pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, or at any time on 26 December or 1 January after 6am, an additional 50% is added to the above rate of fare.

For each hiring on Christmas Day or at any time until 6am on Boxing Day (26 December an additional 100% is added to the above rate of fare.

Fouling Charge: a maximum of £75.00

2.2 The rate of fare produces a daytime rate of £4.20 for the first mile and approximately £2.00 for each subsequent mile. 50% is added to the fares at night (11pm to 6am) which produces a current rate of £6.30 for the first mile and approximately £3.00 for each subsequent mile.

3 Costs

- 3.1 The Office for National Statistics has the current underlying inflation rate (RPI percentage change) at 1.8%, as of September 2016.
- The licensing fees for Hackney Carriages, set by this Council were last increased by approximately 4% with effect from 1 April 2011.
- 3.3 Consultation with Westminster Insurance (which provides 60% of the national market and is one of the main specialist insurers for Winchester drivers), has revealed that the base rates for insurance has not increased since 2013 however there is due to be a significant increase this year.
- 3.4 The cost of petrol and diesel has reduced since the last review of fares in July 2011. The House of Commons briefing paper on Petrol and Diesel prices from March 2016 outlines that whilst there were significant increases to the price of fuel between 2009 and 2012, the overall trend of fuel prices is now showing a downward trajectory. The national average cost of fuel as of January 2016 is between a quarter and one third lower than June 2012. The full document is available at http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN04712.
- 3.5 The website *petrolprices.com* showed on 19 September 2016 for the Winchester area the average price for diesel was 118.8 pence per litre and for unleaded 117.3 pence per litre. This is roughly 5p above the national average of 113.01 pence per litre and 111.9 pence per litre respectively.
- 3.6 Whilst, it is not possible to provide completely accurate figures for the costs that drivers incur, given the wide variety of work and hours, it would be useful to consider the following:

- a) Fuel -50,000 miles per year would cost approximately £5,380 (based on 50 mpg for a diesel vehicle), compared with £6,440 in July 2011.
- b) Insurance varies between £1,200 and £5,500 depending on a number of factors including driver's age, no claims bonus etc. This is an average increase since July 2011 of between £100 and £500.
- c) Maintenance servicing on average costs between £70 and £250. This depends on the level of service required and the number of miles driven.
- d) Finance £250 to £750 per month to finance a new vehicle depending on size and type, as well as the personal circumstances of the individual.

4 <u>Comparisons and Possible Options</u>

- 4.1 Appendix 2 shows 'National Fares Tables', taken from the September 2016 'Private Hire and Taxi Monthly', a trade magazine showing most of the Hampshire Local Authorities' positions in a 'league table'. The league table positions are ranked in order of the cost of a two mile journey at tariff one (daytime between 0600 and 2300). The table shows that Winchester is currently 102nd but, in fact, in joint 94th place nationally, with Hart (20th), Eastleigh (25th), Basingstoke & Deane (28th) and Southampton (94th) above Winchester in the league table as the two mile fares for the first of those three authorities are more expensive than that of this Council, ranging from £6.80 (Hart) and £6.20 (Southampton).
- 4.2 There are currently 26 local authorities across the country with the same cost of a two mile journey at tariff one (between 0600 and 2300) as Winchester, including Southampton. Winchester is below Southampton in the league table as local authorities with the same tariff cost are listed alphabetically.
- 4.3 During the last review of fares in July 2011, Winchester was 117th in the league table of the Private Hire and Taxi Monthly (May 2011 edition).
- 4.4 The national average for a one mile fare in tariff one (between 0600 and 2300) is £3.82. The average for the south is £4.25. In Winchester it is currently £4.20.
- 4.5 The national average for a one mile fare in tariff two (where 50% is added to the fare between 2300 and 0600) is £5.04. The average for the south is £5.86. In Winchester it is currently £6.30.
- 4.6 Appendix 3 sets out possible options for fare increases. If should be noted that the figures show the actual taximeter reading at the distances shown for each proposal. The "start fare" is shown on the meter before the start of the next distance e.g. for the existing fares, £2.80 is shown on the meter as soon as the vehicle is hired, an additional 20p is shown on the meter after 660

yards and another 20p is added after the next and each subsequent 170 yards. The 5 proposals set out the increase, compared to the existing maximum fares for the Council District, at distances of 1 mile, 3 miles, 5 miles and 10 miles, together with the percentage increase in cost. The proposals compare possible increases which would be shown on the taximeter at the distances shown and the percentage increase is calculated to one decimal point.

4.7 In the event of any variation to the existing fares, statutory provisions require a public notice to be advertised in the local press, and representations invited. Representations can be made by any person, including members of the public and taxi drivers. Any representations made in writing within 14 days must be considered by the City Council before the variation is implemented, and it would normally therefore be necessary to bring a further report to Committee for any representations to be considered.

5 Extra Charges

5.1 Members may consider that a "booking fee" be added to the fare chart for Hackney Carriage drivers who carry customers who have pre-booked through a Private Hire Operator. Hackney Carriage drivers often carry out work on behalf of private hire operators, who are able to pre-agree any price with a customer prior to the journey, which forms a contract. If a booking fee were to be added to the fare chart Hackney Carriage drivers could legally add this to pre-booked jobs, when covering work for Private Hire operators only.

6 <u>Issues for Consideration</u>

- 6.1 **Is it appropriate to increase the maximum fare for Hackney Carriages?**Members may wish to consider the changes in costs to the taxi trade over the last 5 years and the consequent increase in cost to the public.
- 6.2 If it is considered there should be no increase on this occasion, when should the matter next be reviewed? Members might consider that if the fares are not increased on this occasion that they should be reviewed in a number of months, e.g. six or 12 months' time.
- 6.3 If it is considered that it is appropriate to increase the fares, how is this to be achieved? Appendix 3 sets out proposals as to how an increase could be achieved.
- 6.4 Column 1 of Appendix 2 shows the positions of the listed authorities in a league table of fares according to the national taxi trade magazine, 'Private Hire and Taxi Monthly'. Winchester is shown in this table as 102nd [joint 94th] out of 365. Copies of the 'Private Hire and Taxi Monthly' league table will be available for scrutiny at the meeting.
- Should there be any changes to the existing "Waiting Time" Charge? The waiting time charge has not been changed since 2005 when it was

increased from 20p per minute to 25p per minute. There have been no requests for change to waiting time from members of the trade. It may be considered inappropriate to change this at this time.

- Should there be any changes to the existing "Fouling Charge"? The last increase to the fouling charge was on the 1 February 2011, when it was increased from £40 to a maximum of £75. There have been no requests from the trade to increase this charge and officers do not consider it appropriate to make changes at this time.
- 6.7 **Should there be any changes to the existing "Extra Charges"?** See paragraph 5 above.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- 7 COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND PORTFOLIO PLANS (RELEVANCE TO):
- 7.1 This report relates to issues related to the Active Communities and Prosperous Economy Priority Outcomes.
- 8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:
- 8.1 Amending the fares requires approximately 4 days of officer time to re-check the taximeters once the new fares have been set and re-print the fare chart for each Hackney Carriage.
- 8.2 In addition to this, there is a requirement to advertise fares, at a cost of approximately £108 excluding VAT. This fee will be covered within the existing budgets for Taxi and Private Hire.
- 9 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES
- 9.1 There is a risk of the availability of taxis and private hire services reducing if fares are not set at an economic level and drivers are unable to continue.
- 9.2 Conversely, if fares are set too high the result may be that the public are unable to afford taxis and private hire vehicles, with a negative impact on the Sustainable Community Strategy objectives set out as above.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

House of Commons briefing paper on Petrol and Diesel Prices from 17 March 2016 http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN04712.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 'National Fares Tables', from 'Private Hire and Taxi Monthly'.

Appendix 2 Table showing proposals for an increase to the fare chart.

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						£5.50
140 FMALERINGE CO. CO. Co. Service Co.						
	140	EVOLENDAE I		1 2 13	ZAGI ATROTINE	

20 21	Gouncil Tariff 1: EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE	£5.	Section 1997	93	Council Tariff 1:	<u> 2</u>
- 821	EDEN	£5.		294		
22	EAST STAFFORDSHIRE	£5.		95	CONGLETON	
23	EPPING FOREST	25		96	GATESHEAD	
: 2	EREWASH	251		97	SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE	
25	GWYNEDD	£5.5		98	WIGAN	
	HAMBLETON	£5.5		99		.3.1
	HUNTINGDONSHIRE	£5.5		99 99	ALNWICK SOUTH HOLLAND	
3.5	LANCASTER	25.5		00 01	SWANSEA	'
	MORAY	£5.5				1
10.00	OLDHAM	مستبيب بالمسارحات		02	CALDERDALE	
	SHROPSHIRE	£5.5		03	BLYTH VALLEY CHESTERFIELD	į
	SOUTH HAMS	£5.5		04	CHESTERFIELD	£
	STAFFORD	1 25.5)5)6	CONWY	.∵ £
	TYNEDALE	£5.5		10)7	COPELAND	
135	WANSBECK				DAVENTRY	£
	GEDLING	£5.50			LIVERPOOL	£
	BARROW IN FURNESS	£5.4			NEATH PORT TALBOT	£
	DONCASTER	£5.40			NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE	
	CHILTERN AND THE STATE OF THE S	£5.40			PETERBOROUGH	£
	CLACKMANNAN	25.41	7. 31 388 24	2	SOUTH LANARKSHIRE(clydsle)	£
: 3. <u>1</u>	DERBY	-			SOUTH NORTHANTS	£
	FAREHAM	£5.40	_		THANET	3
	MACCLESFIELD	£5.40			WESTLINDSEY	£
	ACCULANTELL AID SUFFOLK	5.0			STOKE ON TRENT UA	· £4
	VEWARK & SHERWOOD	£5.40	→	- 1	BRIDGEND	£4
		€5.40	_	Ļ	CHORLEY	
	NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE	£5.40	⊣	- 1	FLINTSHIRE	£4
	PEMBROKESHIRE	£5.40	_		KINGSTON-UPON-HULL	£4
e	ERTH & KINROSS	£5.40		- 1	ROSSENDALE	£4
88 km	UGBY	£5.40			TELFORD & WREKIN	£4
· -	UNDERLAND	£5.40	8		VELLINGBOROUGH	£4
	ANDRIDGE	£5.40	٠		REDDITCH	£4
	RAFFORD	£5.40		-	ALLERDALE	* £4
	ANDSOR 8 MAIDENHEAD	£5.40	4	<u> </u>	ASHFIELD	£4
	MCHAVON	£5.40			AERPHILLY	€4.
	INGS LYNN & W. NORFOLK	£5.40	328	L.,	ERBYSHIRE DALES	£4.
	ASSETLAW	£5.40	329	h	AMILTON A 10 A 1	€4.
	CHMONDSHIRE	£5.40			WERCLYDE	£4.
-	URY ST EDMUNDS	£5.40	331	N	ANSFIELD	€4.
_	RADFORD	€5.36	332		ORTH AYRSHIRE	€4.
	OTSWOLD	£5.35	∫ 333	17.0	ORTH LANARKSHIRE	£4,
	AST DUNBARTONSHIRE	Likk	9	-	OCHDALE	£4.
	RAVEN	£5.30	335	<u> R</u>	OTHERHAM	£4.
	JMBARTON	£5,30		_	UTHERGLEN	£4.1
4 🗷	ST RENFREW	£5.30	337	I	ORFAEN	£4.1
5 <u>Fε</u>	NLAND	£5.30	5.3	В	ARNSLEY	£4.7
	CHFIELD	£5.30	339	81	ERWICK ON TWEED	€4.7
1000	LTON	£5,30	340		ACKBURN	£4.7
	RTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE	£5.30	341	E	AST NORTHANTS	£4.7
_	RTH NORFOLK	£5.30	342		LKIRK	£4.7
	BBLE VALLEY	£5.30	343	H	GHLANDS	£4.7
* Augus	RE FOREST	£5,30	344	H	NDBURN	£4.7
	LFORD	£5.30	345	W	EST LANCASHIRE	£4.7
_	LE ROYAL	£5.30	346		DLSOVER	246
	ABY	£5.30		5261	DRBY	€4.6
BE	DFORD (1997) A Property of the	£5.26	348	SE	FTON	£4.6
<u>В</u> 0.	LTON	£5.25	349	W/	KEFIELD	€4.6
BU.	RY ·	£5.24			RNLEY	£4.5
DE	NBIGHSHIRE	£5.20	351	ME	RTHYR TYDFIL	£4.5
ELL	ESMERE PORT	£5.20			DCAR & CLEVELAND ·	£4,50
HA	TON a standiguency kidy h	£5.20			HELENS	£4.50
NO	RTH TYNESIDE	£5.20			OCKTON ON TEES	£4.50
POY		£5.20			KLEES	£4.40
	STON	LOLEO		_	OWSLEY	
			,	_		£4.40
RHC		SE 30 '		_	DBY & WIGSTON	£4.40
		£5,20	- F		VDLE	£4.40
SOL		£5.20			ESBURY VALE	£4.30
SOL	ILRIO	£5,20	- 1		NEMAU GWENT	£4,30
STA STIE		. T . T . T . T . T	361	Min	OI PARSALIALI	
SOU STA STIF WAS	RRINGTON	£5.20			DLESBROUGH	£4.30
STA STIF WAR	RAL (Section 1)				WCASTLE-U-LYME	
STA STIA STIR WAR WIRI YNY	RAL S MON		362 363	NE\ WE		£4.30 £4.20 £4.20

THE NATIONAL AVERA	GE FARE
Flag at T1 is now	£2.76
Flag at T2 is now	£3.63
1 mile fare T1 is now	£3.82
1 mile fare T2 is now	£5.04
2 mile fare T1 is now	£5.79
2 mile fare T2 is now	£7.45
5 mile fare T1 is now	£11.27
5 mile fare T2 is now	£14.73
10 mile fare T1 is now	£20.71
10 mile fare T2 is now	£27.06
Running mile on T1 is now	£1.87
Running mile on T2 is now	£2.45

AREA FARE AVERAGES												
Tariff One												
	Flag	1 ml.	2 mil.	5 m).	10 mi.	Running Mile						
East Anglia	£3.03	£3.95	£5.74	£11.04	£19.92	£1.78						
Midlands	£2.73	£3,70	£5.47	£10.74	£19.53	£1.76						
North	£2.46	£3.52	£5.23	£10.36	£19.00	£1.72						
South	£2.97	£4.25	£6.24	£12.25	£22.63	£2.01						
South West	£2.72	£4.02	£6.15	£12.51	£23.18	£2.12						
Scotland	£2.74	£3.55	£5.33	£10.68	£19.62	£1.80						
Wales	£2.82	£3.32	£5.16	£10.65	£19.79	£1.83						
Nat. Avg.	£2.76	£3.82	£5.68	£11.27	£20.71	£1.87						

Tariff Two											
	Flag	1 mi.	2 mil.	5.mi.	10 mi.	Running Mile					
East Anglia	£3.95	£5.10	£7.39	£14.24	£25.65	£2.28					
Midlands	£3.63	£4.90	£7.24	£14.10	£26.14	£2.34					
North	£3.05	£4.37	£6.55	£13.09	£24.00	£2.19					
South	£4.08	£5.86	£8.68	£16.83	£30.84	£2.76					
South West	£3.76	£5.44	£8.29	£16.91	£31.27	£2.87					
Scotland	£3.44	£4.34	£6.31	£12.21	£22.05	£1.97					
Wales	£3.57	£4.20	£6.58	£13.66	£25.46	£2.36					
Nat. Avg.	£3.63	£5.04	£7.45	£14.73	£27.06	£2,45					

For full tables see www.phtm.co.uk / www.npha.org.uk

PROPOSAL	Current	1	%age increase	2	%age increase	3	%age increase	4	%age increase	5	%age increase
Pull Off Charge Pull Off Distance Yardage distance Yardage rate	£2.80 660 170 £0.20	£3.00 660 170 £0.30		£3.00 660 170 £0.20		£3.20 660 170 £0.20		£2.80 660 170 £0.30		£3.40 660 170 £0.20	
1 mile fare 2 mile fare	£4.20 £6.20	£5.10 £8.10	21.4%	£4.40 £6.40	4.8% 3.2%	£4.60 £6.60	9.5% 6.5%	£4.90 £7.90	16.7% 27.4%		14.3% 9.7%
3 mile fare 4 mile fare	£8.40 £10.40	£11.40 £14.40	30.6% 35.7% 38.5%	£8.60 £10.60	2.4% 1.9%		4.8% 3.8%	£11.20 £14.20	33.3% 36.5%	£9.00	7.1% 5.8%
5 mile fare 10 mile fare	£12.40 £22.80	£17.40 £33.00	40.3% 44.7%	£12.60 £23.00	1.6% 0.9%	£12.80 £23.20	3.2% 1.8%	£17.20 £32.80	38.7% 43.9%		4.8% 2.6%
To fillio faio		200.00	111170	~20.00	0.070	220.20	1.070	~02.00	10.070	220.10	2.070

Option 1 - shows an increase in the pull off charge by 20p and to yardage rate by 10p, which has been requested by the trade

Option 2 – shows an increase in the pull off charge by 20p

Option 3 – shows an increase in the pull of charge by 40p

Option 4 – shows an increase in the yardage rate by 5p

Option 5 – shows an increase in the pull off charge by 60p