

REGULATORY AND APPEALS COMMITTEE – 27 JULY 2009

Title of paper:	Hackney Carriage Fares Tariff Increase	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Michael Williams Corporate Director Community and Culture	Wards affected: All
Contact Officer(s) and contact details:	Jim Mortell 0115 9156543 jim.mortell@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other officers who have provided input:		
Relevant Council Plan theme(s):		
Choose Nottingham		x
Respect for Nottingham		
Transforming Nottingham's Neighbourhoods		
Supporting Nottingham People		x
Serving Nottingham Better		x
Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):		
<p>This report asks members to consider authorising an increase in hackney carriage fares. Although this will increase the costs of journeys for the fare paying public, the increase in fares will allow hackney carriage proprietors to maintain their vehicles in good order and to assist in providing access to income which will allow the upgrading of their vehicles to meet the Councils requirements.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	Members are recommended to approve the request for an increase in the hackney carriage tariff as outlined in appendix '1' with effect from 06.00 hrs Monday 24 August '09.	
2	If any objections are received after advertising the proposals in recommendation 1 the Chair, Vice Chair and opposition spokesperson of this Committee be authorised to consider the objections and either ratify the increases proposed in this report, or modify the proposals as they believe appropriate and amend the date for implementation of the proposals as necessary.	

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Hackney Carriages can charge up to a maximum fare for a journey within the City boundary that has been set by this Council, with the fare being displayed being the maximum that can be charged.
- 1.2 Delegated authority has been granted to the Team Leader – Taxi Licensing to approve tariff increases up to 3%. However, this request is outside of that agreement.
- 1.3 A comparison of the current and proposed tariff is attached at appendix one, together with information relating to percentage increases, average fare and fuel costs.
- 1.4 Any alteration to the current hackney carriage tariff must be advertised in a local paper and allow for any objections made to be considered.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 The last increase in fares was March 2008. Although this request is for an increase above the rate of inflation it is recommended that it is approved as over a year has passed since the last increase in fares and the request is also to vary the Christmas/New Year tariff to time and a half from double time.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Refusing the application for a tariff increase has been considered, but rejected as the hackney carriage trade are also facing increases in the cost of licences and need to maintain income levels to allow maintenance/repair/replacement of vehicles. It is also felt that delaying any increase in licence fees could result in a steeper increase in fares in the future which would be unacceptable to the public.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

- 4.1 There will be costs of advertising the proposal and printing the tariff cards for placing in the hackney carriages for customer information. There will also be costs in placing markings on the highway in order for the accuracy of the fare meter to be checked and verified. These costs can be met from the current budget.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)

- 5.1 When checking the accuracy of the meters Officers will:
 1. Wear high visibility vests to ensure that they can be seen at all times
 2. Take a break of at least 10 minutes within a sixty minute period in addition to lunch breaks
 3. Take shelter from inclement weather

- 5.2 Comments from legal : None

6 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

- 6.1 None

7 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

7.1 None

FARE INCREASE REQUEST FOR 2009

MAXIMUM RATES OF FARES

6.00am -10.00pm

Current

£2.00

For any distance up to, but not including 285 metres

20p for each subsequent 205 metres up to 1720 metres

20p for each subsequent 211 metres up to 11,426 metres

20p for each subsequent 191 metres or part thereof

20p waiting time for each 51 seconds (**£14.10** per hour)

10.00pm – 6.00am

Current

£2.00

For any distance up to, but not including 201.5 metres

20p for each subsequent 201.5 metres up to 1612 metres

20p for each subsequent 181 metres up to 11,386 metres

20p for each subsequent 165 metres or part thereof

20p waiting time for each 45 seconds (**£16.00** per hour)

Proposed

£2.00

For any distance up to, but not including 180 metres

20p for each subsequent 180 metres up to 1610 metres

20p for each subsequent 190 metres up to 11,300 metres

20p for each subsequent 185 metres or part thereof

20p waiting time for each 51 seconds (**£14.10** per hour)

Proposed

£2.00

For any distance up to, but not including 170 metres

20p for each subsequent 160 metres up to 1610 metres

20p for each subsequent 170 metres up to 11,300 metres

20p for each subsequent 160 metres

20p waiting time for each 45 seconds (**£16.00** per hour)

Fare and a half

Current

8.00pm 24 Dec – 6.00am 27 Dec
6.00am 01 Jan – 6.00am 2 Jan

Proposed

6.00pm 24 December – 6.00am 27 December
6.00pm 31 December – 6.00am 02 January**Double rate**

Current

8.00pm 31 Dec – 6.00am 01 Jan

Proposed

Deleted

Soiling Charge:*

Current

£35.00

Proposed

No change

* This charge is not enforceable by the Taxi Licensing Section but reflects what is perceived as a fair charge for the amount of downtime a proprietor can experience when the vehicle is not fee earning and requires cleansing for future customer use.

Cost per mile of both the current and proposed tariffs

	Current		Proposed		% increase	
	Day	(Night)	Day	(Night)	Day	(Night)
1 mile =	3.40	3.40	3.60	3.80	5.9	5.6
2 miles =	5.00	5.20	5.30	5.70	6.0	5.6
3 miles =	6.60	7.00	7.00	7.60	5.6	5.6
4 miles =	8.00	8.80	8.70	9.50	8.7	8.0
5 miles =	9.40	10.60	10.40	11.40	7.5	7.5
6 miles =	11.00	12.40	12.10	13.30	11.0	7.2
7 miles =	12.60	14.20	14.00	15.20	11.0	7.0
8 miles =	14.20	16.20	15.70	17.10	10.5	5.5
9 miles =	16.00	18.00	17.40	19.00	8.7	5.5
10 miles =	17.60	20.00	19.10	20.90	8.5	4.5

The following statistics are taken from the trade magazine "Private Hire and Taxi Monthly" July 2008. (378 Councils are compared in England, Scotland and Wales)

The national average for a 1 mile fare (daytime) is £3.39	The national average for a 1 mile fare (evening) is £4.50
The national average for a 5 mile fare (daytime) is £10.09	The national average for a 5 mile fare (evening) is £13.30
The national average for a 10 mile fare (daytime) is £18.58	The national average for a 10 mile fare (evening) is £24.39

Average monthly UK retail price for petrol and Diesel fuel (pence per litre)

	Unleaded Petrol	Diesel
May 2006	95.7	98.0
Nov 2007	102.8	107.6
Jun 2009	102.4	104.7 (Average UK prices, details obtained from petrolprices.com)

