

Report to the Council

Committee: Licensing

Date: 17 December 2013

Subject: Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy – Taxi Meters

Chairman: Councillor K Angold-Stephens

Recommending:

- (1) That the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy be amended to include provisions in relation to the installation of taxi meters; and**
 - (2) That, if it is agreed to install meters in Hackney Carriages, the fares shown in the table attached to this report be put out to public consultation and if no replies are received the fares be adopted and come into effect on 2 June 2014.**
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Background

- 1 We received a report which included a brief history of the proposal to set a fare tariff. The Epping Forest Taxi Association, which represents some of the independent taxi drivers in the district, requested the Council to set a fare tariff and install meters in Hackney Carriages. This matter first came before the Committee in April 2012. A consultation was held and the results reported back to us were generally supportive of this proposal.
2. Meetings were then held with the taxi trade to consult on the proposed tariffs and on 10 April 2013 we resolved that:
 - “(1) It was agreed that this Authority should set the fares charged for Hackney Carriages;
 - 2) That the charges as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be agreed and this tariff was to be advertised and if no objections received be agreed and recommended to full Council; and
 - 3) That the conditions of the vehicle licence be amended to include that meters must be installed in Hackney Carriages.”
3. At our meeting on 3 December 2013 we considered the proposed amendments to the Hackney Carriage and Licensing Policy and Conditions which are necessary if meters are to be installed in Hackney Carriages and the representations which were received following consultation on these provisions. We also considered the proposed tariff and the implementation date.
4. We had received a presentation earlier in the meeting from Inspector Andy Fusher who informed us that the Police were in favour of a fare tariff. After public houses and clubs close

at night, if there is a fixed fare, those leaving these establishments will get into the first taxi available which speeds up their departure from the area.

5. Our proposed fare tariff is set out in the table below.
6. If the tariff is agreed there is a statutory requirement to advertise it in the local papers circulating in the area and to state in the advert the date when it will come into effect if there is no objection. However, if there are objections these must be referred to the Council for consideration prior to implementation. If after consideration of any objections the Council decides to proceed then the tariff will come into effect on the date stated in the advertisement. We considered that the original timetable proposed for the introduction of the meters was too short and the amended implementation date of 2 June 2014 is recommended.
7. We agreed the amendments that are required to the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and Licence Conditions which are shown in bold in the attached Appendix.
8. We recommend as set out at the commencement of this report.

**TABLE OF FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES
FROM**

Rates 1, 2 and 3 apply to all vehicles carrying 4 or less passengers.

For vehicles licensed to carry between 5 and 8 passengers, when carrying 5 or more passengers substitute Rates 2,3 & 4, for Rates 1,2 & 3. Rate 4 only to be used by vehicles carrying 6/8 passengers on public holidays

	Fare up to 1760 yds (1609m) part thereof 400 seconds	Each additional unit of 176 yds (160.9m) or part thereof or period of 40 seconds
<p style="text-align: center;">Rate 1</p> <p>For hiring begun between 6.00am and 10.00pm Monday to Saturday inclusive</p>	£3.50	£0.20
<p style="text-align: center;">Rate 2</p> <p>For hiring begun between 10.00pm and 6.00am Monday to Friday inclusive and from 10.00pm on Saturday to 6.00am on Monday and all day on Bank Holidays</p>	£3.70	£0.30
<p style="text-align: center;">Rate 3</p> <p>For hiring on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and after 6.00pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve</p>	£4.10	£0.40
<p style="text-align: center;">Rate 4</p> <p>For Hiring on Christmas day, Boxing Day, New Years Day and after 6.00pm on Christmas Eve and New years Eve</p>	£5.50	£0.50

Assistance Dogs – No Charge

All other dogs, carried at driver's discretion – No Charge

Fouling of the vehicle at the discretion of the driver, up to £70.00

These fares do not include any 'toll or congestion' charge.

All fares are inclusive of VAT

Airport bookings, West End & out of area bookings to be agreed by the operator and passenger before the journey commences.

Complaints should be made to the Taxi Licensing Officer (01992 564034)

Quoting the vehicle registration mark/licence number or the driver's badge number.

Summary of above charges

- Rate 1 Up to 4 passengers, minimum daytime fare is £3.50 for up to 1 mile, thereafter charged at a rate of £2.00 per mile in 20p increments. Waiting time is £18 per hour, in 20p increments
- Rate 2 Rate 2 can be used as a night/Sunday rate – or – if a multi-seater vehicle carrying in excess of 4 passengers during daytime
- Rate 3 Double fare commonly used at Christmas/New Year holiday period or when a multi-seater vehicle carrying in excess of 4/6 passengers during night time/Sunday hour.