

AGENDA
ITEM

8

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL

AGENDA
ITEM

8

NAME OF COMMITTEE	Licensing Committee
DATE	8 November 2012
REPORT TITLE	Hackney Carriage – Revised Table of Fares for December 2012 onwards
Report of	The Licensing Officer
WARDS AFFECTED	All Wards

Summary of report:

To seek Members' approval to change the Table of Fares for Hackney Carriages from December 2012.

The setting of Hackney Carriage Fares is a statutory requirement.

Financial implications:

There are no direct financial implications to the Council from this Report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Licensing Committee RESOLVE that:-

- a. In respect of Hackney Carriages operating within the South Hams District Council, the maximum fares which may be charged should be set in accordance with the Table of Fares attached as the Appendix to this report, and
- b. The Tables of Fares be advertised and come into effect in accordance with the provisions of Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

Officer contact:

Naomi Wopling

naomi.wopling@southhams.gov.uk

01803 861336

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Hackney Carriage fares are regularly reviewed to allow the trade to keep pace with operating costs. The fares were last reviewed and amended by the Licensing Committee on 17th February 2011. At that time the average diesel price at the pumps was £1.34p, today the average price of diesel is £1.44p per litre.

2. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Consultation

- 2.1 A letter was written to all proprietors setting out proposals for increasing fares. The Hackney Carriage Trade were consulted on the new Table of Fares and no objections were received.
Before finalising the proposed fares the proposal must be advertised for information purposes.

Summary of Changes

- 2.2 The changes to the Table of Fares are detailed in the attached Appendix A highlighting the existing and proposed fares. The Table of Fares have been improved to allow for increases in operating costs and to be comparable with the national average. The proposed fee increases are not uniform across fares, and as an example the cost of a one mile journey on tariff 1 will increase by 4.9%, a two mile journey by 4% and a ten mile journey by 3%.
- 2.3 When making comparisons of fares against other Local Authorities the South Hams, even with the suggested increases, will still have one of the lowest taxi tariffs in Devon and Cornwall with a two mile journey during working hours costing just £5.46. (Further information in 'background documents' below).
- 2.4 The other proposed changes which the Licensing Committee are being asked to consider is the addition of a 20 pence fuel surcharge to be added to the flag price of the fare once the price of a litre of diesel exceeds £1.50 per litre at the Shell Carew Filling Station on the A38 at South Brent. What this means is if diesel escalates above £1.50 per litre then the meter tariff can be loaded with an additional 20p per hiring. There would be no loading if diesel remains below £1.50p. Also a rise of 10p to 40p for carrying a large article of luggage in the boot, with no charge for carrying smaller size food shopping bags and a rise of 10p to 40p for carrying a passenger. Two children between the ages of 3 years and 6 years are regarded as one person and children under 3 years are not chargeable and an increase of 10p to 60p for carrying animals. The transportation of assistance dogs is free.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no legal implications from the review of taxi fares in the District.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications to the Council from this Report.

STRATEGIC RISKS TEMPLATE

No	Risk Title	Risk/Opportunity Description	Inherent risk status			Mitigating & Management actions	Ownership
			Impact of negative outcome	Chance of negative outcome	Risk score and direction of travel		
1	Any tariff change must be proportionate to the operator's direct and indirect expenditure.	<p>By reviewing the taxi fares we are assisting taxi drivers to keep on top of operating costs.</p> <p>Due to the rural nature of the South Hams, taxis have become a vital part of the transport system. A review of the taxi fares shows that the council is supporting drivers during difficult financial circumstances.</p> <p>In a rural area where buses are scarce this will have a detrimental effect on residents and visitors to the area.</p>	3	2	6 ⇔	<p>Travelling a short distance will only cost a small amount more as outlined in the report.</p> <p>When comparing tariffs with other local authorities, the South Hams will still have on of the lowest rates.</p> <p>The increase in operating costs is generally outside the control of this council but if we fail to keep the tariffs under review we will ultimately lose taxi drivers to other occupations.</p> <p>A balance needs to be drawn to keep the tariffs reasonable for the travelling public.</p> <p>The proposed tariffs in appendix A are mostly lower than the tariffs set by neighbouring authorities and the proposals reflect the national average for taxi tariffs.</p>	EH Business Support / Licensing Manager.

Direction of travel symbols ↓ ↑ ⇔

Background Documents

Listed below are a summary of other Local Authorities tariffs which have been carried out by an independent company and published in September 2012. [The date the tariff was first introduced is in brackets]:-

Private Hire Monthly September tariffs.

Tariff 1 for a one mile journey:

West Devon	£Not metered.
North Cornwall	£Not metered.
Caradon	£4.80 [Nov. 2011]
Plymouth	£4.20 [Nov. 2011]
Penwith	£4.10 [Apr. 2012]
Exeter	£4.00 [Nov. 2008]
Torbay	£4.00 [Sep. 2011]
Teignbridge	£4.00 [Apr. 2011]
Restormel	£3.80 [July 2008]
East Devon	£3.80 [Dec. 2010]
Carrick	£3.80 [Aug. 2012]
Mid Devon	£3.70 [Nov. 2010]
Torridge	£3.50 [Apr. 2010]
North Devon	£3.35 [Nov. 2011]
Kerrier	£3.09 [Jan. 2011]
South West Average	£3.91 [Sep. 2012]
National Average	£3.66 [Sep. 2012]

<i>South Hams</i>	£3.44 [current]	£3.61 (proposed)
-------------------	-----------------	------------------

Tariff 1 for a two mile journey:

West Devon	£Not metered.
North Cornwall	£Not metered.
Caradon	£6.80 [Nov. 2011]
Carrick	£6.80 [Aug. 2012]
Penwith	£6.30 [Apr. 2012]
Kerrier	£6.19 [Jan. 2011]
Exeter	£6.00 [Nov. 2008]
North Devon	£5.85 [Nov. 2011]
East Devon	£5.80 [Dec. 2010]
Restormel	£5.80 [July 2008]
Torbay	£5.80 [Sep. 2011]
Teignbridge	£5.80 [Apr. 2011]

Mid Devon	£5.70 [Nov. 2010]	
Plymouth	£5.70 [Nov 2011]	
Torrige	£5.50 [April. 2010]	
South West Average	£5.97 [Sep. 2012]	
National Average	£5.46 [Sep. 2012]	
<hr/>		
<i>South Hams</i>	£5.24 [<i>current</i>]	£5.46 (proposed)

Tariff 1 for a ten mile journey:

West Devon	£Not metered.	
North Cornwall	£Not metered.	
Kerrier	£30.99 [Jan. 2011]	
Carrick	£27.40 [Aug. 2012]	
North Devon	£25.85 [Nov 2011]	
Penwith	£23.90 [Apr. 2012]	
Caradon	£22.80 [Nov. 2011]	
Mid Devon	£22.10 [Nov. 2010]	
Exeter	£22.00 [Nov. 2008]	
East Devon	£21.80 [Dec. 2010]	
Restormel	£21.80 [July 2008]	
Torrige	£21.50 [April. 2010]	
Teignbridge	£21.00 [Apr. 2011]	
Torbay	£20.80 [Sep. 2011]	
Plymouth	£16.20 [Nov. 2011]	
South West Average	£22.40 [Sep. 2012]	
National Average	£19.96 [Sep. 2012]	
<hr/>		
<i>South Hams</i>	£19.69 [<i>current</i>]	£20.29 (proposed)

Tariff 2 for a one mile journey:

West Devon	£Not metered.
North Cornwall	£Not metered.
Kerrier	£6.18 [Jan. 2011]
Teignbridge	£6.00 [Apr. 2011]
Caradon	£5.80 [Nov. 2011]
Mid Devon	£5.55 [Nov. 2010]
Penwith	£5.45 [Apr. 2012]
Torrige	£5.25 [April 2010]
Carrick	£5.20 [Aug. 2012]
Plymouth	£5.20 [Nov 2011]
North Devon	£5.04 [Nov 2011]
Exeter	£5.00 [Nov. 2008]

Torbay	£5.00 [Sep 2011]
Restormel	£4.90 [July 2008]
East Devon	£4.80 [Dec. 2010]

South West Average	£5.41 [Sep. 2012]
National Average	£4.84 [Sep. 2012]

<i>South Hams</i>	£4.47 [current]	£4.66 (proposed)
-------------------	-----------------	------------------

Tariff 2 for a two mile journey:

West Devon	£Not metered.
North Cornwall	£Not metered.
Kerrier	£12.38 [Jan 2011]
North Devon	£8.84 [Nov. 2011]
Penwith	£8.75 [Apr. 2012]
Restormel	£8.70 [July 2008]
Teignbridge	£8.70 [Apr. 2011]
Mid Devon	£8.55 [Nov. 2010]
Caradon	£8.30 [Nov. 2011]
Torrige	£8.25 [April 2010]
Carrick	£8.20 [Aug 2012]
Exeter	£7.50 [Nov. 2008]
Torbay	£7.40 [Sep 2011]
East Devon	£7.20 [Dec. 2010]
Plymouth	£6.70 [Nov. 2011]

South West Average	£8.09 [Sep. 2012]
National Average	£7.21 [Sep. 2012]

<i>South Hams</i>	£6.71 [current]	£6.93 (proposed)
-------------------	-----------------	------------------

Tariff 2 for a ten mile journey:

West Devon	£Not metered.
North Cornwall	£Not metered.
Kerrier	£61.98 [Jan. 2011]
North Devon	£39.24 [Nov. 2011]
Carrick	£37.00 [Aug. 2012]
Penwith	£35.15 [Apr. 2012]
Mid Devon	£33.15 [Nov. 2010]
Restormel	£32.70 [July 2008]
Torrige	£32.25 [April 2010]
Teignbridge	£31.50 [Apr. 2011]
Caradon	£28.30 [Nov. 2011]
Exeter	£27.50 [Nov. 2008]

Torbay £27.40 [Sep. 2011]
 East Devon £26.40 [Dec. 2010]
 Plymouth £17.20 [Nov. 2011]

South West Average £30.46 [Sep. 2012]
 National Average £26.15 [Sep. 2012]

South Hams £24.65 [current] £25.10 (proposed)

Corporate priorities engaged:	Improving the local economy and promoting community life.
Statutory powers:	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
Considerations of equality and human rights:	Compliance with the Human Rights Act 1998 – Article 6: Right to a fair hearing
Biodiversity considerations:	Not applicable
Sustainability considerations:	As above under corporate priorities engaged
Crime and disorder implications:	Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 applies.
Background papers:	<p>Consultation letter to the taxi operators.</p> <p>Private Hire Monthly trade magazine – September 2012 edition (Figures not published in the October 2012 edition).</p> <p>Fuel prices</p>
Appendices attached:	Appendix A – Proposed Hackney Carriage maximum fares and charges.

APPENDIX A

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL

MOTOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall be entitled to demand and take for hire of the carriage the rate of fare prescribed by the following table, the rate of fare being calculated by distance, except that if the distance travelled is more than five miles from the point where the hirer commences the hiring, the hirer and proprietor may agree at the commencement of the hiring to engage by time.

Provided always that where a hackney carriage furnished with a taximeter shall be hired by distance the proprietor or driver thereof shall not be entitled to demand and take a fare greater than that recorded on the face of the taximeter, save for any extra charges authorised by the following table which it may not be possible to record on the face of the taximeter.

FARES FOR DISTANCE

	Existing	Proposed
1. <u>TARIFF 1</u> – Monday to Saturday where the hiring commences between 7am and 11pm.		
For the first 768.10 metres (840 yards) or part thereof	£2.50	
<i>For the first 643.74 metres (704 yards) or part thereof</i>		£2.50
For each subsequent 178.31 metres (195 yards) or uncompleted part thereof	20 pence	
<i>For each subsequent 173.74 metres (190 yards) or uncompleted part thereof</i>		20 pence

(In effect this means a one-mile journey will increase from £3.44 to £3.61 [+4.9%] a two mile journey will increase from £5.24 to £5.46 [+4%] and a ten mile journey will increase from £19.69 to £20.29 [+3%]. The South West regional averages for the same distances being £3.91; £5.97 & £22.40. The National averages being £3.66; £5.46 & £19.96).

Waiting Time

For each period of 70 seconds or 20 pence
uncompleted part thereof 20 pence

2. TARIFF 2 – Sundays and Bank Holidays where the hiring commences between 7am and 11pm and on all other days where the hiring commences between 11pm and 7am and where the hiring commences between 7pm on 24th December and 7am on 27th December and between 7pm on 31st December and 7am on 2nd January.

For the first 768.10 metres (840 yards) or part thereof £3.30

For the first 643.74 metres (704 yards) or part thereof £3.30

For each subsequent 143.56 metres (157 yards) or uncompleted part thereof 20 pence

For each subsequent 141.73 metres (155 yards) or uncompleted part thereof 20 pence

(In effect this means a one-mile journey will increase from £4.47 to £4.66 [+4.2%], a two mile journey will increase from £6.71 to £6.93 [+3.3%] and a ten mile journey will increase from £24.65 to £25.10 [+1.8%]. The South West regional averages for the same distances being £5.41; £8.09 and £30.46. The National averages being £4.84; £7.21 and £26.15).

WAITING TIME

For each period of 48 seconds or uncompleted part thereof 20 pence 20 pence

3. TARIFF 3 – Where the hirer specifically requests an eight passenger seat vehicle. There is a stipulation that each seat must be equipped with a three anchorage point seat belt. Daily 24 hours.

For the first 768.10 metres (840 yards) or part thereof £3.90

For the first 643.74 metres (704 yards) or part thereof £3.90

thereof

For each subsequent 143.56 metres (157 yards) or uncompleted part thereof 20 pence

For each subsequent 141.73 metres (155 yards) or uncompleted part thereof 20 pence

(In effect this means the Tariff for the hire of an eight passenger seat mini bus will be 60p greater than Tariff 2).

WAITING TIME

For each period of 48 seconds or uncompleted part thereof 20 pence 20 pence

4. EXTRA CHARGES

For the fouling of the interior or exterior of the carriage £80.00 £80.00

For each article of luggage or other article conveyed outside the passenger compartment of the carriage 30 pence 40 pence

For each animal carried (Assistance dogs are carried free of charge) 50 pence 60 pence

For each person in excess of one (two children between the ages of 3 years and 6 years shall be regarded as one person. A child under 3 years shall not be reckoned). 30 pence 40 pence

Fuel – Surcharge to be added to each hiring once the price of one litre of diesel fuel exceeds the below price at the Shell Carew Filling Station, A38 South Brent.

£1.40 per litre 10 pence N/A
£1.50 per litre 10 pence 20 pence

BOOKING CHARGE

For each hiring which requires the driver to drive to the hirer's Designated pick up point £1.00 £1.00