



Walsall Council

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
TO A MEETING OF THE LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL 2008 @ 6.00PM
APPLICATION FOR A HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE INCREASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report is in response to a letter received from the Taxi Federation in which they request a hackney carriage fare increase for certain times of the working day.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Committee is recommended to consider the report and agree an increase.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of any appeal to a Magistrates Court by any person aggrieved by a decision of the Council will be met from within existing budgetary provision.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council has the authority to implement the changes.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Legal Services Consulted: No.
- 5.2 Section 65 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 permits a District Council to fix the rates or fares within the District as well for time as distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the arrangements for the hire of a

vehicle; to be paid in respect of the hire of Hackney Carriages by means of a table made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section.

- 5.3 When a District Council varies a table of fares they shall publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district a notice setting out the variation thereof and specifying the period, which shall not be less than fourteen days from the date of the first publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which objections to the variations can be made. The notice shall at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment at the Council offices.
- 5.4 If no objections are received within the period the variation shall come into operation on the date of the expiration of the period specified in the notice. Where objections are duly made the District Council shall set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date, on which the table of fares shall come into force with or without modifications as decided by them after consideration of the objections.

6. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 All applications are treated on merit.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.1 None.

8. WARD(S) AFFECTED

- 8.1 All.

9. CONSULTEES

- 9.1 Taxi Liaison Group. Neighbouring Local Authorities.

10. CONTACT OFFICER

- 10.1. Steven Knapper– Principal Licensing Officer. Ext. 2221

11 BACKGROUND

- 11.1 On the 12th February a letter was received from the Taxi Federation requesting an increase on the fare tariff for Hackney Carriage vehicles **(copy of letter attached as appendix 1)**
- 11.2 The Federation are asking for a 50% increase for fares between the hours of 10.00pm and 06.00am. The reasons they put forward are;
1. Unsociable hours worked

2. increasing costs of fuel,
3. MOT tests,
4. Licensing costs,
5. Insurance.

- 11.3 There has not been any increase in taxi fares since June 2005, however the license fees have also remained static since January 2005. **(copy of taxi fare tariffs attached as appendix 2)**
- 11.4 Set out in the attached **appendix (3)** are the existing tariffs with a comparison of charges requested by the Federation.
- 11.5 It can be seen that the increase that is being requested would not affect normal daily rates but would only give an extra tariff for evenings between 10.00pm and 6.00am. This is when the trade are working unsocial hours and are confronted on a regular basis with anti social problems.
- 11.6 This requested change in tariff has never needed to be considered before, but with changes in the Licensing Laws and the increase in late night Town Centre entertainment the trade has, over the last 3 years, had to adapt quite considerably to the demands placed on it during these late hours.
- 11.7 A comparison has been carried out with Neighbouring Authorities including Cannock, Stafford, Lichfield, Sandwell and Wolverhampton. These Local Authorities do have an extra tariff during this period at night. Research shows that most Authorities throughout the Country now have this night time tariff (only 6 Authorities, including Walsall, don't have this tariff).
(Fare tariffs from Sandwell and Wolverhampton are attached for comparison as appendix 4)
- 11.8 This report was presented to the Taxi Liaison Group on the 12th March 2008 for their information and discussion. A recommendation was proposed for this Committee to consider the above application but to also consider certain amendments to the original request.
- 11.9 The amendments are:
 - (1) the amount be increased by 30% as opposed to 50% and
 - (2) that the hours on Christmas Day and New Year be extended from 12 midnight to 6.00am to take into account the new late night hours of licensed premises.
- 11.10 Set out in the attached **appendix (5)** below are the differences in the tariff structure between what is requested from the Taxi Federation and the suggested amendments from the Liaison Group.

APPENDIX 3

distance	Present fare	Requested fare
For the first 335 yards	£2.50p	Between 6.00am and 10.00pm No Change Between 10.00pm and 6.00 am 50% increase £3.75
For each subsequent 129.5 yards	£0.10p	Between 6.00am and 10.00pm No Change Between 10.00pm and 6.00 am 50% increase 0.15p
Until the meter reads (1 st mile)	£3.60p	Between 06.00am and 10.00pm No Change Between 10.00pm and 6.00 am 50% increase £5.40
For each subsequent 117 yards (£1.50)	£0.10p	Between 6.00am and 10.00pm No Change Between 10.00pm and 6.00 am 50% increase 0.15p
Waiting time per hour	£15.00p	No Change
Waiting time per minute	£0.25p	No Change
Soiling charge	£25.00p	No Change
Christmas and New Year		
24/12 @ 6.00pm to 26/12 @ 12 midnight	Double normal fare	No Change
31/12 @ 6.00pm to 1/1 12 midnight	Double normal fare	No Change

APPENDIX 5

distance	Requested fare at 50%	Amendment at 30%
For the first 335 yards	Between 6.00am and 10.00pm No Change Between 10.00pm and 6.00 am 50% increase £3.75	Between 6.00am and 10.00pm No Change Between 10.00pm and 6.00 am 30% increase £3.25
For each subsequent 129.5 yards	Between 6.00am and 10.00pm No Change Between 10.00pm and 6.00 am 50% increase 0.15p	Between 6.00am and 10.00pm No Change Between 10.00pm and 6.00 am 30% increase 0.13p
Until the meter reads (1 st mile)	Between 06.00am and 10.00pm No Change Between 10.00pm and 6.00 am 50% increase £5.40	Between 06.00am and 10.00pm No Change Between 10.00pm and 6.00 am 30% increase £4.68
For each subsequent 117 yards (£1.50)	Between 6.00am and 10.00pm No Change Between 10.00pm and 6.00 am 50% increase 0.15p	Between 6.00am and 10.00pm No Change Between 10.00pm and 6.00 am 30% increase 0.13p
Waiting time per hour	£15.00p	£15.00p
Waiting time per minute	£0.25p	£0.25p
Soiling charge	£25.00p	£25.00
Christmas and New Year		
24/12 @ 6.00pm to 26/12 @ 12 midnight	Double normal fare No change on hours	double normal fare Extend hours from 12midnight to 06.00am
31/12@ 6.00pm to 1/1 12 midnight	Double normal fare No change on hours	Double normal fare Extend hours from 12midnight to 06.00am

