



Walsall Council

REPORT OF THE INTERIM REGULATORY MANAGER

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

18 APRIL 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982

HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

1.0 Summary of report

- 1.1 This report has been prepared in response to a request made by the Walsall Hackney Carriage Association via the Taxi Liaison Group to increase/amend specific charges in relation to hackney carriage fares.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to consider the report and to:
- (A) Approve the request.
 - (B) Refuse the request.
- 2.2 If the committee is minded to approve the request, to also agree to a new designed fare card as given in Appendix 2.

3.0 Background information

- 3.1 On the 14th March 2012 at the Taxi Liaison Committee, Walsall Hackney Carriage Association requested the following changes to be made to the existing hackney carriage fare structure.

Between 06:00 Hrs and 18:00 Hrs

- (a) For the 1st mile to increase from £3:60 to £4:30 (19% increase)
- (b) For each subsequent mile from £1:50 to £1:60 (6.6% increase)

Between 18:00 Hrs and 06:00 Hrs

- (a) An increase from 13p to 15p (15% increase) for each 129.5 yards and 117.3 yards.

For hackney carriage vehicles (at all times) that can carry between 6 & 8 passengers an additional charge of £1 per person is proposed. This means that for 8 passengers there will be an additional £3 to pay on top of the metered fare.

3.2 The reasons put forward for an increase in fares are;

1. increasing costs of fuel,
2. Insurance levels.

3.3 There has not been an increase in the current table of fares since August 2008 (night time tariff only) and 2005 (day time tariff only)

3.4 The current tariff structure is:

DISTANCE	TARIFF 1 6am – 6pm	TARIFF 2 6pm – 6am
For the first 335 yards	£2.50	£3.25
For each subsequent 129.5 yards	£0.10	£0.13
Until the meter reads (1 st mile)	£3.60	£4.68
For each subsequent 117 yards	£0.10	£0.13
Waiting time per hour	£15.00	£15.00
Waiting time per minute	£0.25	£0.25
Soiling charge	£25.00	£25.00
Christmas and New Year 24/12 @ 6pm to 27/12 @ 6am and 31/12 @ 6pm to 02/01 @ 6am	Double Normal Fare	Double Normal Fare

3.5 The proposed increases are highlighted:

DISTANCE	TARIFF 1 6am – 6pm	TARIFF 2 6pm – 6am
For the first 335 yards	£2.50	£3.25
For each subsequent 129.5 yards	£0.10	<u>£0.15</u>
Until the meter reads (1 st mile)	<u>£4.30</u>	£4.68
For each subsequent 117 yards	£0.10	<u>£0.15</u>
Waiting time per hour	£15.00	£15.00
Waiting time per minute	£0.25	£0.25
Soiling charge	£25.00	£25.00
Christmas and New Year 24/12 @ 6pm to 27/12 @ 6am and 31/12 @ 6pm to 02/01 @ 6am	Double Normal Fare	Double Normal Fare

- 3.6 **Appendix 1** shows a comparison of fares with neighbouring authorities. It can be seen that the proposed increase in Tariff 1 is comparable with the majority of neighbouring authorities and the running mile is also comparable. In respect of Tariff 2, fares are higher when travelling in excess of 2 miles. The running mile for Tariff 2 is also higher than neighbouring authorities.
- 3.7 The national average for Tariff 1 flagfall is £2.64 and 2 mile fare is £5.39.
- 3.8 The national average for Tariff 2 flagfall is £3.51 and 2 mile fare is £7.12.
- 3.9 Set out in **Appendix 2** is an amended hackney carriage fare card which may be considered to be easier to understand by members of the travelling public as it sets out the minimum fares that will be charged at a particular mileage point.

4.0 Resource considerations

- 4.1 **Financial:** The Council is required to advertise via a public notice in the press the proposed hackney carriage fare rise if agreed by committee.
- 4.2 **Legal:** 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 a 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 of fares made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section.

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 be not 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 also at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment at the council offices.

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 the council after consideration of the objections.

- 4.3 **Staffing:** Nothing arising from this report.

5.0 Citizen impact

5.1 Potential increase in fares to travelling public.

6.0 Community safety

6.1 None arising from this report

7.0 Environmental impact

7.1 None arising from this report

8.0 Performance and risk management issues

8.1 None arising from this report

9.0 Equality implications

9.1 None arising from this report.

10.0 Consultation

10.1 The proposed increase if agreed will have to be advertised.

11.0 Contact Officer:

11.1 Steve Knapper, Principal Licensing Officer. 01922 652221

COMPARISON HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE CHARGES

TARIFF 2 (£)

TARIFF 1 (£)

COUNCIL	FLAG	1 MILE	2 MILE	5 MILE	10 MILE	(£) RUNNING MILE	FLAG	1 MILE	2 MILE	5 MILE	10 MILE	(£) RUNNING MILE
WALSALL (CURRENT)	2.50	3.60	5.10	9.60	17.10	1.50	3.25	4.68	6.63	12.48	22.23	1.95
WALSALL (PROPOSED)	2.50	4.30	5.90	10.70	18.70	1.60	3.25	4.90	7.15	13.90	25.15	2.25
BIRMINGHAM	2.00	4.00	5.80	10.80	19.40	1.70	2.40	4.80	6.80	13.00	23.20	2.04
DUDLEY	1.50	4.30	5.90	10.70	18.70	1.60	2.00	4.80	6.40	11.20	19.20	1.60
SOLIHULL	2.00	4.00	5.80	10.80	19.40	1.70	2.40	4.80	6.80	13.00	23.20	2.04
WOLVERHAMPTON	3.00	3.70	5.20	9.90	17.70	1.56	3.50	4.20	5.20	10.40	17.30	1.56

APPENDIX 1



Walsall Council

PROPOSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES & CHARGES

FARES FOR DISTANCE OR TIME	<u>DAYTIME RATE</u> 06:00 – 18:00HRS	<u>NIGHT TIME RATE</u> 18:00 – 06:00HRS	<u>CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR</u>
	(TARIFF 1) For the first 335 yards or 101.5 seconds = £2.50 For each succeeding 79.2 yards or 24 seconds thereafter or a combination of both = £0.10 Up to £4.40 on the meter then every 110 yards or 24 seconds = £0.10	(TARIFF 2) For the first 335 yards or (93.1 seconds) = £3.25 For each succeeding 129.5 yards or 36 seconds thereafter or a combination of both = £0.15 Up to £5.05 on the meter then every 117.3 yards or 36 seconds = £0.15	(TARIFF 3) 24 DECEMBER @ 18:00 HRS TO 27 DECEMBER @ 06:00 HRS DOUBLE NORMAL FARE TARIFF (TARIFF 4) 31 DECEMBER @ 18:00 HRS TO 2 JANUARY @ 06:00 HRS DOUBLE NORMAL FARE TARIFF
TO HIRE THIS TAXI	£2.50	£3.25	<u>Any Compliments or Complaints should be addressed to:</u> Regulatory Services – Licensing Enforcement Walsall MBC Challenge Building Hatherton Road Walsall WS1 1YG ☎ 01922 652246 Email: licensingenforcement@walsall.gov.uk
FOR THE 1 ST MILE	£4.30	£4.90	
FOR EACH MILE THEREAFTER	£1.60	£2.25	
PRICE GUIDE			
1 MILE	£4.30	£4.90	
2 MILES	£5.90	£7.15	
3 MILES	£7.50	£9.40	
4 MILES	£9.10	£11.65	
5 MILES	£10.70	13.90	
10 MILES	£18.70	25.15	

Journeys outside the Borough Boundary will normally be metered unless an alternative rate of fare is agreed prior to the commencement of the journey.

EXTRA CHARGES

When six or more passengers are carried in a vehicle which is licensed for such numbers = £1.00/Person at any time

Soiling Charge = £25