

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Licensing and Enforcement Committee	Date:	19 January 2023
Subject:	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Hackney Carriage Tariff increase		
Report Of:	Director of Communities		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	Yes	Budget/Policy Framework:	Yes
Contact Officer:	Darren Mountford, Licensing Team Leader		
	Email:	darren.mountford@gloucester.gov.uk	Tel: 396240
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Tariff Comparison Appendix 2 – Proposed Hackney Carriage Tariff		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To outline to members a proposal submitted by Gloucester Hackney Carriage Association (GHCA) for an increase to the current Hackney Carriage tariff.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Licensing and Enforcement Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** that

The proposed increase to the Hackney Carriage tariff is advertised as a public notice in accordance with the requirements of Section 65, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

- 2.2 If no objections are received from the public within 14 days of publication of the notice that the proposed tariff will come into effect from 1st March 2023 (this is at the request of GHCA).
- 2.3 If objections are received within the 14 days, then the matter will need to be considered further at the March meeting of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 permits the council to set the maximum fares for Hackney Carriage vehicles licensed by it. The last tariff increase was in August 2021.
- 3.2 Hackney Carriage fares are made up of an initial hiring charge and a mileage rate, both of which are expressed in terms of distance and or time. This is because when

a hired Hackney Carriage is stationary or moving slowly in traffic the meter continues charging by time instead of distance.

- 3.3 GHCA on behalf of its members have submitted a proposal requesting an increase of 10% to the current Hackney Carriage fare tariff.
- 3.4 The primary reason for the trade's request for the increase is that all other costs have increased for example replacement of parts for the vehicles, insurance premiums, high inflation and fuel costs.
- 3.5 GHCA in consultation with its members has asked that the current fare Tariff be amended in line with the following proposals:-

Rate one

Decrease the 1st drop in yards from 446 to 203.

Each subsequent drop in yards from 167 to 151.

Waiting time in seconds from 34 to 27.3.

Rate two

Decrease the 1st drop in yards from 584 to 336.

Each subsequent drop in yards from 130 to 118.

Waiting time in seconds from 25 to 22.7.

Rate three

Decrease the 1st drop in yards from 853 to 588.

Each subsequent drop in yards from 112 to 101.

Waiting time in seconds from 23 to 20.7.

Everything else remains the same including the initial flag and with the above changes in terms of a decrease in yards will equate to a 10% increase to the current tariff.

- 3.6 For members ease the table below compares the current tariff (as from August 2021) against the new proposed tariff. The figures have been rounded up to the nearest 20 pence and it does not take into account waiting time or any extras that maybe charged.

	TARIFF 1		TARIFF 2		TARIFF 3	
JOURNEY	Current	PROPOSED	Current	PROPOSED	Current	PROPOSED
1 mile	£4.60	£5.20	£6.00	£6.60	£6.80	£7.40
2 miles	£6.80	£7.40	£8.60	£9.40	£9.80	£11.00
3 miles	£8.80	£9.80	£11.40	£12.40	£13.00	£14.40
5 miles	£13.20	£14.40	£16.80	£18.40	£19.20	£21.40

10 miles	£23.60	£26.20	£30.20	£33.40	£35.00	£38.80
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3.7 As most Local Authorities use differing distance measurements for the initial flag fare and on-going distance charges, the best way to compare taxi tariffs is on the running mile and mile figures. With a 10% increase we are the lowest within the local area on the running mile, third highest on a one mile journey and fifth highest on two mile journeys. The comparison can be seen in the table below:-

Area	Rate 1 Running Mile	1 mile	2 mile
Forest of Dean	£3.50	£4.63	£8.13
Cotswold District Council	£2.51	£4.50	£7.01
Stroud	£2.51	£5.41	£7.93
Tewkesbury	£2.40	£5.00	£7.40
Cheltenham	£2.38	£5.18	£7.56
Gloucester (current)	£2.10	£4.55	£6.62
Gloucester (Proposed 10%)	£2.33	£5.06	£7.39

3.8 A comparisons tariff with the other local areas plus Worcester and Bristol, for a 1 and 2 mile journey on rates 1, 2 and 3 (this includes the proposed changes) can be seen in Appendix 1.

3.9 The proposed Hackney Carriage fares can be seen in Appendix 2.

3.10 For members information the local area authorities last agreed their fares on:-

Area	Fare agreed (year)
Stroud	2022
Cotswold	2022
Tewkesbury	2022
Forest	2022
Cheltenham	2022

4.0 Social Value Considerations

There is a legal process that we must follow when changing/amending Hackney Carriage tariffs. This must be done through a consultation exercise. This gives communities as much information about the changes/amendments that are being proposed.

5.0 Environmental Implications

There are no 'Environmental' implications arising out of the recommendations in this report.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 Members having considered the request from GHCA may consider that the requested fare increase is either too high or too low and could decide to reduce or increase the amounts highlighted at 3.5 of this report.
- 6.2 Members may decide that a fare increase is not justifiable or appropriate at this present time.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1 With the proposed 10% increase it brings Gloucester City closer to the local area in terms of the running mile.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 8.1 If members agree in principle to the 10% increase to the Hackney Carriage tariff, then the legislation prescribes that the Council must consult if it proposes to set or vary Hackney Carriage fares.
- 8.2 It must do so by publishing a notice in a local newspaper setting out the variation and specifying a period and means of objecting. The specified period cannot be less than 14 days.
- 8.3 All licensed drivers will be sent a text message during the consultation period making them aware of this proposal.
- 8.4 If no objections are made or any made are withdrawn, the proposed fares will take effect on the specified date in this case 1st March 2023. However, if objections are made and not withdrawn, the council must set a further date to take into consideration the objections.

9.0 Financial Implications

- 9.1 Should an increase be agreed by Committee members, there will be a cost to advertise the new table of fares.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

10.0 Legal Implications

- 10.1 Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 enables the Council to fix the rates or fares within and all other charges in connection with the hire of hackney carriage vehicles in their area.
- 10.2 Any variation of the fare must be advertised and a period specified (being not less than 14 days from the publication of the advertisement) within which objections

could be made. If any objections are made and not withdrawn a further meeting of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee is required to consider the objections.

10.3 Section 65 of the Act of 1976 states that if any objections are unresolved after the initial 14 day consultation period, a date for a Licensing Committee hearing will be set, not more than two months after the first specified date on which the table of fares to consider the objections and make a final decision.

10.4 In reaching a decision Members are exercising discretion and must act in a judicial and reasoned way.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

11.1 The key risks arising from this relate to decisions taken by the Licensing and Enforcement Committee. Any decisions made which are unreasonable or unlawful could be open to legal challenge resulting in loss of image, reputation and potential financial penalty.

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

12.1 The screen stage considered risks to customers in the areas of gender, disability, age, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or community cohesion. A further assessment will be conducted to consider any feedback from the consultation.

13.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

13.1 The basis of the condition is to provide a standard for licensed Private Hire and Hackney Carriage drivers to work to.

Sustainability

13.2 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensed drivers provide an important addition to the public transport provision in the City and so contribute to environmental sustainability.

Staffing & Trade Union

13.3 None

Background Documents:

Town Police and Clauses Act 1847

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976