

Rother District Council

Report to: Licensing and General Purposes Committee

Date: 4 April 2022

Title: Hackney Carriage Fares

Report of: Head of Service - Environmental Services, Licensing and Community Safety

Ward(s): All

Purpose of Report: To consider increasing hackney carriage fares

Officer

Recommendation(s): It be **RESOLVED**: That:

- 1) Hackney Carriage Fares Table One be approved;
 - 2) if no new objections are received, to implement from 16 May 2022; and
 - 3) a further ten percent (10%) increase is advertised in December 2022.
-

Background

1. The Council sets hackney carriage fares in the district by adopting a fare card. Fares were last increased in December 2016. This matter was considered at your last meeting and approval was given to advertise the variation in the table of fares. Representations have been received, which should be considered by Members.

Reasons for the proposed increase of ten percent

2. The AA reports that fuel prices have increased by 24% (twenty-four percent) between October 2016 and 2021.
3. It is important that hackney carriages fares are increased periodically to attract new hackney carriage owners and drivers to work in Rother. Drivers need to be able to earn a sufficient income.
4. Although hackney carriages face competition from the private hire trade, they offer a different service, waiting on taxi ranks and therefore the public should expect to pay extra for this service. The fare card shows the maximum fare that can be charged, a driver may charge less.
5. There is a cost to hackney carriage owners in recalibrating their meters and a cost to the Council in administering this change; the exercise should not therefore take place too frequently. When an increase is made it needs to be at least 5% (five percent), to justify the costs involved.
6. When fare cards are adjusted, the yardages and waiting time (in seconds) are varied, to keep the price at a whole 10p, 20p, 30p or 40p. The meter calculates the cost of a fare to the nearest ten pence. It is a legal requirement to use yards

rather than metres. Waiting time is only charged after a journey commences, if the vehicle is travelling less than five miles per hour.

7. It is proposed to remove the slightly higher tariff on Sundays, as this cannot be justified.

Representations

8. Five representations were received about a higher tariff on bank holidays and two objected to the removal of a higher tariff on Sundays. One representation requested a higher than ten percent (10%) increase. All representations were from licensed drivers.

Options

9. Table one represents a ten percent (10%) increase in fares, including a higher tariff on bank holidays, which is traditional to compensate and encourage drivers to work on these days. Table two also includes a slightly higher tariff on Sundays.

Future Increases

10. The AA reports that fuel prices have increased by 24% (twenty-four percent) between October 2016 and 2021. It is therefore recommended that fares are increased by another ten percent (10%) next year. Authority is requested to advertise this increase in December 2022, so that any objections can be considered by this Committee in January 2023.

All meters to be recalibrated within 7 days

10. Our handbook requires all meters to be set to the Council's fares and requires meters to be updated within one week of a change being implemented. It is proposed that these requirements continue. This means that all meters will show the same maximum fare, but still allows a driver to offer a discount of for example "10% (ten percent) off the metered fare".

Conclusion

11. Hackney carriage fares have not been increased since December 2016. A 10% (ten percent) increase is proposed, which will need to be formally advertised. If there are no objections, the new fare card will be implemented from 16 May 2022. If objections are received, they will be referred to this Committee for determination.

Crime and Disorder

12. Fares should be sufficient for it to be attractive for drivers to work at night.

Risk Assessment

13. Failure to periodically increase hackney carriage fares may result in insufficient numbers of hackney carriages operating in the district in the future, creating inconvenience for the public and potentially affecting public safety and the late

night economy. There are no rights to appeal this decision other than by Judicial Review.

Other Implications	Applies?	Other Implications	Applies?
Human Rights	No	Equalities and Diversity	No
Crime and Disorder	Yes	External Consultation	Yes
Environmental	No	Access to Information	No
Risk Management	Yes	Exempt from publication	No

Chief Executive:	Malcolm Johnston
Report Contact Officer:	Richard Parker-Harding, Head of Service
e-mail address:	richard.parker-harding@rother.gov.uk
Appendices:	A - Proposed Fare Cards
Relevant Previous Minutes:	LG21/10
Background Papers:	NONE
Reference Documents:	NONE

Proposed Fare Card-Table One**ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL****TABLE OF MAXIMUM FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES****LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)
ACT 1976, SECTION 65**

With effect from 16 May 2022 as follows:-

	07:30 TO 22:30	22:30 TO 01:00 AND 05:30 TO 07:30 ON ANY DAY AND BANK HOLIDAYS 07:30 TO 22:30	01:00 TO 05:30 ON ANY DAY & ALL DAY CHRISTMAS DAY BOXING DAY NEW YEARS DAY
Any distance up to 152 yards	£3.00	£4.40	£5.80
Each additional 152 yards up to one mile	20p	30p	40p
Each additional 185.3 yards	20p	30p	40p
Waiting time	20p for 30 seconds	30p for 44 seconds	40p for 59 seconds

For each person conveyed in excess of one 20p

For each dog conveyed (no charge for assistance dogs) 20p

Soiling charge from £55

Proposed Fare Card-Table Two**ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL****TABLE OF MAXIMUM FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES****LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)
ACT 1976, SECTION 65**

With effect from 16 May 2022 as follows:-

	07:30 TO 22:30	07:30 TO 22:30 ON SUNDAYS	22:30 TO 01:00 AND 05:30 TO 07:30 ON ANY DAY AND BANK HOLIDAYS 07:30 TO 22:30	01:00 TO 05:30 ON ANY DAY & ALL DAY CHRISTMAS DAY BOXING DAY NEW YEARS DAY
Any distance up to 152 yards	£3.00	£3.60	£4.40	£5.80
Each additional 152 yards up to one mile	20p	20p	30p	40p
Each additional 185.3 yards	20p	20p	30p	40p
Waiting time	20p for 30 seconds	20p for 30 seconds	30p for 44 seconds	40p for 59 seconds

For each person conveyed in excess of one 20p

For each dog conveyed (no charge for assistance dogs) 20p

Soiling charge from £55