

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

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REPORT OF: Head of Refuse & Environment

TO: Licensing Committee

21/7/2014

WARDS: All

## **HACKNEY CARRIAGE TABLE OF FARES**

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### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides that in respect of the charges for Hackney Carriages, the Council *“may 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 ... by means of a table.”*
- 1.2 The existing Table of Fares came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012 and this was subsequently amended to allow a surcharge for payment by credit or debit card, as from 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014. The current Table of Fares is attached to the report as Appendix A.
- 1.3 Fares comprise charges for:
  - distance travelled (3 tariffs, depending on time of day and day of the week)
  - waiting time and
  - extra charges, which include journeys with 5 or more passengers, a potential fuel surcharge, a soiled vehicle charge and the card payment charge
- 1.4 Cambridge City Licensed Taxis Ltd (CCLT) has requested an increase of 2.5% on the tariffs charged currently. This request is attached as Appendix B.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 Members are recommended to vary the existing Table of Fares, with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014, subject to the statutory consultation process, by increasing the tariffs, in accordance with the rounded rate, in the above table, as shown in the Table of Fares shown in Appendix C.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012, Licensing Committee resolved determined: *iii) To determine any future amendment to the Table of Fares by using the percentage increase as calculated by Transport for London.*

- 3.2 As stated in CCLT's letter, the trade indicated that it did not wish to see an increase applied in 2013, on the basis that, in a time of general hardship, an increase in rates would impact adversely on potential customers and, therefore, lead to a potential loss of trade.
- 3.3 Transport for London (TfL) applied an increase to fares of 1.7% in 2013 and by 0.7% in 2014.
- 3.4 The following table indicates the current tariffs, the effect of a TfL increase, the effect of a 2.5% increase, as requested by CCLT and a rounded figure, which officers consider would enable passengers a drivers to manage change more effectively.

	Current rate	TfL increase	CCLT increase	Rounded rate
Tariff 1	£2.80	£2.85	£2.87	£2.85
Tariff 2	£3.80	£3.89	£3.90	£3.90
Tariff 3	£4.80	£4.88	£4.92	£4.90

## 4. CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 In accordance with the statutory procedure set out in Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Council is required to undertake public consultation prior to making any amendment to the Hackney carriage table of fares.
- 4.2 A notice must be published in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district, setting out the variation and specifying the period, which cannot be less than fourteen days from the date of the first publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which objections can be made.
- 4.3 If no objection to the variation of the table of fares is made, or if all objections are withdrawn, the revised Table of Fares will come into operation on the date of the expiration of the consultation period. However, if any objections are made and not withdrawn, the Committee will consider the objections and set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date, on which the Table of Fares shall come into effect, with or without modifications.

## 5. OPTIONS

- 5.1 The Committee may resolve:
- a. To vary the existing Table of Fares with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014 (subject to statutory consultation) by increasing the distance charges tariffs to the rounded rate indicated in the table at paragraph 3.4
  - b. To vary the existing Table of Fares with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014 (subject to statutory consultation) in another way

c. Not to vary the Table of Fares at this time

## **6. CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 Cambridge City Council has the authority to determine the fares to be charged by hackney carriages within the city for distance and time, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle. Any request to vary the Table of Fares must be considered, taking into account its policy as previously determined.
- 6.2 Any proposed amendment to the Table of Fares is subject to the statutory consultation process as set out in section 4

## **7. IMPLICATIONS**

a) **Financial Implications**

If members are minded to vary the Table of Fares, the costs of the required statutory consultation and advertising will be met from Licence fees.

(b) **Staffing Implications**

Consultation on and implementation of a varied Table of Fares will be undertaken within existing provision.

(c) **Equal Opportunities Implications**

Public consultation on any proposed variation of the Table of Fares will enable comments and objections to be considered prior to implementation

(d) **Environmental Implications**

None associated with this report

(e) **Procurement**

Nil

(f) **Community Safety**

Cambridge City Council regulates hackney carriages to ensure the protection of the public. The setting of maximum fares chargeable within the city ensures that they are reasonable and proportionate, for both users and the licensed trade.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

None

The author and contact officer for queries on the report is Robert Osbourn on ext. 7894

Report file: M:\LICENSE/04 – Other Licences\ Committee Reports

Date originated: 20/06/2014

Date of last revision 02/07/2014

Appendix A – Current Table of Fares

<b>Cambridge City Hackney Carriage</b> <b>Maximum rate of charges from 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014</b> Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976	
Fares are calculated on a combination of distance or time or parts thereof. The meter must only be switched on when passengers are safely in the vehicle and the trip is about to commence. Please be aware that all journeys taken in Hackney Carriages within the Cambridge city boundaries must be charged on the meter; this is the maximum legal fare.	
Tariff 1: Between 07:00 – 19:00 hours	£2.80
Tariff 2: Between 19:00 – 07:00 and Sundays and Bank Holidays	£3.80
Tariff 3: 19:00 Christmas Eve – 07:00 Boxing Day 19:00 New Years Eve – 07:00 New Years Day	£4.80
<b>Each tariff includes initial distance of 92 metres or part thereof</b>	
For each subsequent 183 metres or part thereof	20p
HIRING CHARGES – WAITING TIME AS INDICATED BELOW – will be charged when the vehicle is motionless or when it is travelling below the changeover speed of 16.79 km/p/h	
For each period or part thereof 40 seconds	20p
<b>EXTRA CHARGES</b>	
1. For each journey with 5 or more passengers	£3
2. Fuel Surcharge (only applicable if the national retail price of diesel, as measured by the Arval index, has exceeded 179.9p per litre since 15 August 2012) **There will be a separate notice in this vehicle if this extra charge is payable.	£0.40
3. Vehicle unfit to continue working	£80
4. Surcharge for payment by credit or debit card	5%
<b>Exclusions: the Taxicard scheme</b>	
Any fare calculated in accordance with the Table of Fares may be subject to any concession scheme approved by the council provided the driver of this vehicle is a participant in such a scheme and the passenger has provided any necessary proof of entitlement to the benefit of such a scheme to the satisfaction of the driver	
Complaints about the vehicle or driver should be made to: Jas Lally, Head of Refuse and Environment PO Box 700 Cambridge, CB1 0JH 01223 457888	
	

## Appendix B - Request from CCLT

Dear Robert,

I am applying for a fare increase for Cambridge City taxis of 2.5%.

If this should seem high to you, please remember that in 2013 the Cambridge taxi trade passed up the opportunity to apply for a fare rise, due to the unfavourable economic climate. But now the UK economy has passed out of recession, we believe it is fair and reasonable to ask for an increase.

In 2013 Transport for London raised taxis fares by 1.7%, and this year by 0.7%. Please compare this with a Retail Price Index of approx 2.75% in each of the two years. Historically Cambridge has followed London in its fare rises, which have now fallen behind the RPI, and Cambridge's even further.

What we are asking for is less than half of the RPI increase over two years, and approximately the same as the TfL increase over the same two year period.

This gives the Council options to give all 2.5% or one of the lower rates to help the trade any of these will not affect the small jobs around 5-6 pounds or below.

Yours sincerely,

David Wratten.

Chairman  
Cambridge City Licensed Taxis Ltd.

Received on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014

<b>Cambridge City Hackney Carriage</b> <b>Maximum rate of charges from 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014</b> Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976	
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