

---

**VARIATION TO HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES**

---

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Chris McEwen,  
Economy and Regeneration Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Richard Alty, Director for Place**

---

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is for Members to consider three applications to revise the tariff levied in respect of hackney carriage fares.

**Summary**

2. This report provides information on the current hackney carriage tariffs, the three applications from members of the trade to increase the tariffs, trade objections to the proposals and further options for Members in relation to the applications.
3. Paragraphs 11 and 13 of this report reflect that the majority of the licensed trade who responded to the consultation favour some increase in the tariffs. Of those who did respond, the majority favour Option 3. The comparison with other Tees Valley Councils as shown at **Appendix D** reveals that Darlington taxis fares are on average higher than those levied in neighbouring authorities.

**Recommendation**

4. It is recommended that Members approve the tariff structure detailed as Option 3 as presented in the report.

**Reasons**

5. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:-
  - (a) to meet the Council's obligations under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976;
  - (b) to support a viable taxi trade.

**Richard Alty, Director of Place**

## Background Papers

### (i) The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

Julie Richings : Ext 2559

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for crime and disorder
Health and Wellbeing	There are no issues which this report needs to address
Sustainability	There are no issues which this report needs to address
Diversity	There are no issues which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	The proposals affect all wards
Groups Affected	The proposals affect all communities
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the Council budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	The proposals do not represent a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	There are no issues which this report needs to address
Efficiency	This report does not reflect any efficiency savings

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

6. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (“the 1976 Act”) at Section 65 provides for a District Council to fix the rates of fares for hackney carriages. The relevant section is reproduced in full at **Appendix A**. Fares are normally reviewed on receipt of a request from the taxi trade. Fares set by the Council are maximum tariffs and proprietors are free to charge lower fares as they see fit.
7. In November 2007 the trade submitted a request for an increase to the tariffs. A preliminary consultation exercise revealed no opposition to the proposal and the application was made subject to statutory consultation. No objections were received and the revised fares were introduced on 29 January 2008 under delegated powers.
8. In July 2008 the Licensing Section received a further request for an increase in tariffs from several proprietors. This application was made subject to a full consultation with all licensed hackney carriage vehicle proprietors who overwhelmingly opposed the application. As a result Cabinet supported the recommendation not to increase the tariffs which remained unchanged from the rates set in January 2008.

9. In June 2010 a request was received from a member of the trade for an increase in the tariffs. The application was made subject to a full consultation with the trade and a number of responses which opposed any increase two further proposals were submitted. As a result, a further consultation was undertaken with all hackney carriage proprietors. The majority of responses to the consultation were in favour of no change to the tariffs. Consequently, the Cabinet supported the recommendation not to increase the tariffs which remained unchanged from the rates set in January 2008.
10. On 20 March 2012 a letter was received from a member of the trade requesting an increase in the tariffs. A full consultation was undertaken with all hackney carriage proprietors commencing on 27 March 2012 and concluding on 13 April 2012. The proposal is reproduced at **Appendix B**. A comparison between this proposal and the current tariff is detailed below:-

	Current Tariff 1	Current Tariff 2	Current Tariff 3		Proposed Tariff 1	Proposed Tariff 2	Proposed Tariff 3
Flag for 1st <b>290</b> <b>yds</b>	£2.50	£3.00	£3.50	Flag for 1st <b>548 yds</b>	£3.00	£3.80	£4.60
Pence per <b>147 yds</b>	£0.12	£0.15	£0.20	Pence per <b>202 yds</b>	£0.20	£0.25	£0.30
1 Mile	£3.70	£4.50	£5.50	1 mile	£4.20	£5.30	£6.40
2 Miles	£5.14	£6.30	£7.90	2 miles	£6.00	£7.55	£11.80
3 Miles	£6.58	£8.10	£10.30	3 miles	£7.80	£9.80	£12.70

### **Outcome of Consultation**

11. The consultation letter was sent on the 27 March 2012 to all 160 proprietors (who between them own 187 hackney carriage vehicles) advising them of the request and inviting them to comment. As a result of this preparatory consultation 30 replies were received:-
- 16 proprietors agreed with the proposal
  - 14 proprietors disagreed with the proposal
  - 8 proprietors put forward an alternative proposal (now Option 2)
  - One further proprietor proposed a further alternative proposal (now Option 3)
12. The alternative proposals listed at (c) and (d) above have been reproduced at **Appendix C**.
13. As a result of the alternative proposals, a further consultation has been undertaken, with all 160 hackney carriage proprietors. The consultation set out the original proposal for increase and the two alternatives that had been raised by the initial consultation. In addition, an option (Option 4) of “no change” was also provided. The consultation produced responses from 59 hackney carriage proprietors who between them hold 69 vehicle licences responded as follows:-

	No of Proprietors	No of vehicles
Option 1 (the original proposal)	17	24
Option 1 (“No” votes)	8	8
Option 2	8	11
Option 3	26	26
Option 4	0	-

14. In light of these responses Members must decide whether or not to approve any changes in the current tariffs. When considering this issue the impact of a cost increase to the public has to be balanced with the need for the taxi trade to be able to make a living and to continue to purchase new vehicles and maintain the current fleet.
15. To enable Members to consider the alternatives tariffs proposed in this report a comparison of hackney carriage tariffs in the Tees Valley Authorities has been produced at **Appendix D**.
16. Any tariff set is the maximum that can be charged by a hackney carriage for a fare. Hackney Carriage proprietors are at liberty to charge a lesser fare than the metered fare and it is common practice for some firms to do so in Darlington.

#### **The Statutory Consultation Requirement**

17. In the event that Members are minded to approve any of the proposals to increase the tariffs, that decision will be subject to statutory consultation by way of an advertisement in a local newspaper circulation within the district when the 14 day consultation period will commence. In the event of objections as a result of the statutory consultation, Cabinet will need to then further consider such objections. Given that the majority of the trade who did respond have indicated that they would like an increase on the present tariff which has been in operation since January 2008 Members are invited to support the recommendations and choose Option 3, which proved to be the most popular on the basis of the outcome of consultation with the taxi trade.

**The Legislation**

**Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976**

**Fixing of fares for hackney carriages.**

- (1) A district 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 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 (hereafter in this section referred to as a “table of fares”) made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section.
- (2)(a) When a district council make or vary a table of fares they shall publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district a notice setting out the table of fares or 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 table of fares or variation can be made.
- (b) A copy of the notice referred to in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall for the period of fourteen days from the date of the first publication thereof be deposited at the offices of the council which published the notice, and shall at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment.
- (3) If no objection to a table of fares or variation is duly made within the period specified in the notice referred to in subsection (2) of this section, or if all objections so made are withdrawn, the table of fares or variation shall come into operation on the date of the expiration of the period specified in the notice or the date of withdrawal of the objection or, if more than one, of the last objection, whichever date is the later.
- (4) If objection is duly made as aforesaid and is not withdrawn, 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.
- (5) A table of fares made or varied under this section shall have effect for the purposes of the Act of 1847 as if it were included in hackney carriage byelaws made thereunder.
- (6) On the coming into operation of a table of fares made by a council under this section for the district, any hackney carriage byelaws fixing the rates and fares or any table of fares previously made under this section for the district, as the case may be, shall cease to have effect.
- (7) Section 236(8) (except the words “when confirmed”) and Section 238 of the Local Government Act 1972 (except paragraphs (c) and (d) of that section) shall extend and apply to a table of fares made or varied under this section as they apply to byelaws made by a district council.

Dear Sir,

It is now over five years since our last tariff increase and our overheads particularly fuel and insurance costs have risen by approximately 50%. I therefore submit the following application for a revision of our fare structure.

Proposal

	T 1	T 2	T 3
For the first 548 yards of part thereof	£3.00	£3.80	£4.60
For each additional 202 yards of part thereof	£00.20	£00.25	£00.30
For each 40 seconds waiting time or part thereof	£00.20	£00.25	£00.30

Yours sincerely

## OPTIONS – ALTERNATIVE PROPOSED TARIFF INCREASES

<b>Current Tariff</b>	<b>1st mile</b>	<b>Subsequent mile</b>
<b>Tariff 1</b> (06:00 hrs to 23:00 hrs)	<b>£3.70</b>	<b>£1.44</b>
<b>Tariff 2</b> (23:00 hrs to 06:00 hrs) and the 24 hours of all public holidays other than those included in Tariff 3	<b>£4.50</b>	<b>£1.80</b>
<b>Tariff 3</b> 18:00 hrs 24 December to 06:00 hrs 27 December and 18:00 hrs on 31 December to 06:00 hrs on 2 January	<b>£5.50</b>	<b>£2.40</b>

<b>Option 1</b>	<b>1st mile</b>	<b>Subsequent mile</b>
<b>Tariff 1</b> (06:00 hrs to 23:00 hrs)	<b>£4.20</b>	<b>£1.80</b>
<b>Tariff 2</b> (23:00 hrs to 06:00 hrs) and the 24 hours of all public holidays other than those included in Tariff 3	<b>£5.30</b>	<b>£2.25</b>
<b>Tariff 3</b> 18:00 hrs 24 December to 06:00 hrs 27 December and 18:00 hrs on 31 December to 06:00 hrs on 2 January	<b>£6.40</b>	<b>£2.70</b>

<b>Option 2</b>	<b>1st mile</b>	<b>Subsequent mile</b>
<b>Tariff 1</b> (06:00 hrs to 23:00 hrs)	<b>£4.20</b>	<b>£1.44</b>
<b>Tariff 2</b> (23:00 hrs to 06:00 hrs) and the 24 hours of all public holidays other than those included in Tariff 3	<b>£5.00</b>	<b>£1.80</b>
<b>Tariff 3</b> 18:00 hrs 24 December to 06:00 hrs 27 December and 18:00 hrs on 31 December to 06:00 hrs on 2 January	<b>£6.00</b>	<b>£2.40</b>

<b>Option 3</b>	<b>1st mile</b>	<b>Subsequent mile</b>
<b>Tariff 1</b> (06:00 hrs to 23:00 hrs)	<b>£4.00</b>	<b>£1.80</b>
<b>Tariff 2</b> (23:00 hrs to 06:00 hrs) and the 24 hours of all public holidays other than those included in Tariff 3	<b>£5.00</b>	<b>£2.40</b>
<b>Tariff 3</b> 18:00 hrs 24 December to 06:00 hrs 27 December and 18:00 hrs on 31 December to 06:00 hrs on 2 January	<b>£6.00</b>	<b>£3.00</b>

**Option 4      No change**

## NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES FARE COMPARISON

<b>DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (Current)</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Mile</b>	<b>Subsequent mile</b>	<b>3 miles</b>
<b>Tariff 1</b> (06:00 hrs to 23:00 hrs)	<b>£3.70</b>	<b>£1.44</b>	<b>£6.58</b>
<b>Tariff 2</b> (23:00 hrs to 06:00 hrs) and all public holidays other than those included in Tariff 3	<b>£4.50</b>	<b>£1.80</b>	<b>£8.10</b>
<b>Christmas and New Year</b>	<b>£5.50</b>	<b>£2.40</b>	<b>£10.30</b>

<b>STOCKTON BOROUGH COUNCIL</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Mile</b>	<b>Subsequent mile</b>	<b>3 miles</b>
<b>Tariff 1</b> 0600 to 2400	<b>£3.15</b>	<b>£1.30</b>	<b>£5.80</b>
<b>Tariff 2</b> 2400 to 0600 and Bank Holidays	<b>£3.78</b>	<b>£1.95</b>	<b>£7.75</b>
<b>Christmas and New Year</b>	<b>£4.22</b>	<b>£2.40</b>	<b>£9.02</b>

<b>HARTLEPOOL</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Mile</b>	<b>Subsequent mile</b>	<b>3 miles</b>
<b>Tariff 1</b> 09.00 to 17.00	<b>£2.74</b>	<b>£0.84</b>	<b>£4.42</b>
<b>Tariff 2</b> 17.00 to 23.30 and 06.30 to 09.00 and 6.30 to 23.30 Sundays	<b>£3.00</b>	<b>£1.30</b>	<b>£5.50</b>
<b>Tariff 3</b> 11.30 to 06.30	<b>£3.30</b>	<b>£1.50</b>	<b>£6.30</b>
<b>Christmas and New Year</b>	<b>£5.30</b>	<b>£1.50</b>	<b>£8.30</b>

<b>MIDDLESBROUGH</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Mile</b>	<b>Subsequent mile</b>	<b>3 miles</b>
<b>Tariff 1</b> At all times except Christmas and New Year	<b>£2.80</b>	<b>£1.50</b>	<b>£5.80</b>
<b>Tariff 2</b> Christmas and New Year	<b>£3.80</b>	<b>£2.20</b>	<b>£8.20</b>

<b>REDCAR AND CLEVELAND</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Mile</b>	<b>Subsequent mile</b>	<b>3 miles</b>
<b>Tariff 1</b> 06.00 to 00.00	<b>£3.00</b>	<b>£1.50</b>	<b>£6.00</b>
<b>Tariff 2</b> 00.00 to 06.00 and all Bank Holidays including Christmas	<b>£3.50</b>	<b>£1.80</b>	<b>£7.10</b>