
VARIATION TO HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Stephen Harker,
Consumer and Environmental Services Portfolio**

Responsible Director - John Buxton, Director of Development and Environment

Purpose of Report

1. To consider an application to revise the tariffs levied in respect of Hackney Carriage Fares.

Information and Analysis

2. 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**. Members may be aware that the Council is unable to set fares for Private Hire vehicles.
3. Members last considered a variation to the hackney carriage tariffs on 7 March 2005. Following the statutory consultation process the revised fares were introduced in July 2005. The Licensing Section has now received a further request for an increase in tariffs from a member of the trade, and this is appended as **Appendix B**.
4. On 19 June 2006 a letter was sent to all 162 hackney carriage proprietors (who between them own 200 vehicles), advising them of the request and inviting them to comment. As a result of this preparatory consultation 4 responses were received and are appended at **Appendix C**. In summary they are as follows:
 - (a) The proprietor of HC vehicle number 3 have written in support of the proposed increases.
 - (b) The proprietor of HC vehicle numbers 150 and 156 has written with an alternative proposal to increase the tariffs further. He is supported by 14 proprietors (who between them own 16 vehicles) and opposed by one proprietor.
 - (c) The proprietor of HC vehicle number 108 has written and requested a 10% reduction in the tariffs and also a 10% reduction in the licence fees.
 - (d) The proprietor of HC vehicle number 80 (who is also included in the 14 supporters detailed at (ii) above) has also written individually to propose a higher but different increase.

5. As the remaining 146 proprietors have not commented officers must assume that they support the increase specified at **Appendix B** to this report. The trade and public will however have a formal opportunity to respond during the statutory consultation period following the advertisement of the proposed tariffs.
6. The table below gives the existing charge and the proposed increase. The fares proposed in Appendix B have been converted to reflect equivalent costs per mile for ease of reference.

TARIFF	Existing First Mile	Proposed First Mile	Existing Subsequent Mile	Proposed Subsequent Mile	Existing 3 Mile	Proposed 3 Mile
1 (06:00 to 23:00)	£3.08	£3.20	£1.32	£1.44	£5.72	£6.08
2 (23:00 to 06:00) and the 24 hours of all public holidays other than those included in tariff 3	£3.85	£4.00	£1.65	£1.80	£7.15	£7.60
3 18:00 24th December to 06:00 27th December 18:00 31 December to 06:00 2nd January	£4.80	£5.00	£2.20	£2.40	£9.20	£9.80

7. A comparison has also been made with neighbouring authorities and is attached as **Appendix D**. It shows large variations in some tariffs and similarities in others.
8. In considering this application, members should take into account the following:
 - (a) The hackney fare has not been increased since July 2005 and since that date the cost of fuel, insurance and associated costs have risen.
 - (b) An increase in the tariff will have an impact on the cost to passengers using hackney carriage vehicles.
 - (c) The impact of an increase to the public has to be balanced with need for the taxi trade to be able to make a living and to continue to both purchase new vehicles and maintain the current fleet.

Outcome of Consultation

9. Although an initial consultation has been undertaken with the trade prior to this report being prepared and responses appended at **Appendix C**, the statutory consultation will not commence until an advertisement is placed in the Northern Echo and the 14-day consultation period commences. If no objections are received, officers suggest that the proposed increase be introduced from 9 October 2006 subject to meters being recalibrated and new tariff cards being available. In the event of objections Cabinet will need to consider the objections and set a further date for implementation of the proposed or any modified tariffs not later than 2 months after the original proposed implementation date.

Legal Implications

10. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

11. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

12. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

Decision Deadline

13. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

Key Decisions

14. The variations to hackney carriage fares is a key decision as it directly impacts on the hackney carriage and private hire drivers licensed by the Council.

Recommendation

15. It is recommended that:

- (a) Given the increasing costs to the trade that Members approve the increased tariffs as detailed at **Appendix B** and **paragraph 6** of this report as follows:

- (i) **Tariff 1** (06:00 to 23:00). First 290 yards (265 metres) £2.00 and each additional 147yards (134 metres) 12p.

- (ii) **Tariff 2** (23:00 to 06:00hrs and the 24 hours of all public holidays other than those included in tariff 3). First 290 yards £2.50, and each additional 147 yards 15p.
 - (iii) **Tariff 3** (18:00 hrs 24 December to 06:00 hrs 27 December and 18:00 hrs 31 December to 06:00 hrs 2 January). First 290 yards £3.00, and each additional 147 yards 20p.
- (b) The Director of Development and Environment formally consults on the recommended fares in line with statutory requirements and that Cabinet consider any objections received, and;
- (c) subject to no objections being received the proposed fares be introduced from 9 October 2006.

Reasons

16. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:

- (a) The hackney fare has not been increased since July 2005 and since that date the cost of fuel, insurance and associated costs have risen.
- (b) The increase to the fares proposed in the report strike an appropriate balance between the interests of the public and the taxi trade.

John Buxton
Director of Development and Environment

Background Papers

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

Appendices

- A Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
- B Letter from a member of the taxi trade received 16 May 2006
- C Trade responses to informal consultation
- D A comparison has been made with neighbouring authorities

Pam Ross
388647

THE LEGISLATION

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

(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 the 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 specify 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 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.

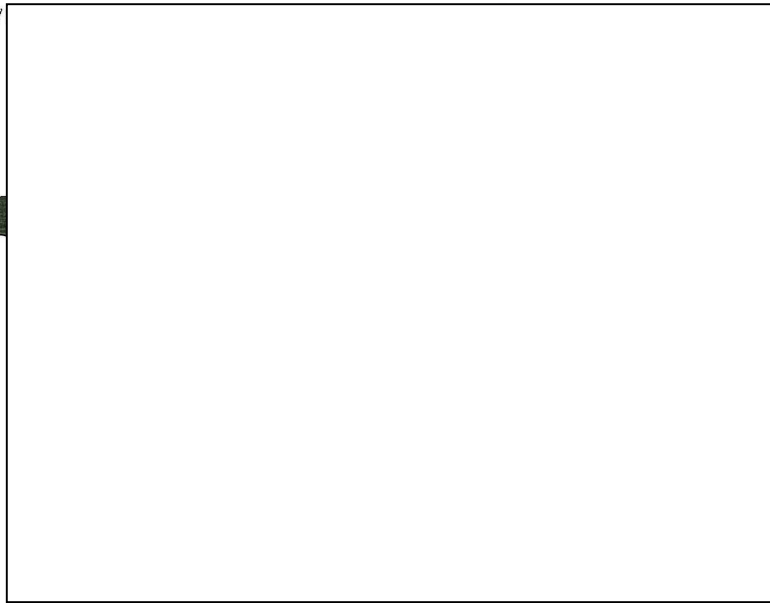
(5) A table of fares made or varied under this section shall have effect for the purposes of the Act of 1847 as if it were included in hackney carriage byelaws made there under.

(6) On the coming into operation of the table of fares made by a Council under this section for the district, any hackney carriage byelaws fixing 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.

16/05/

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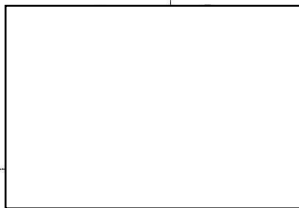
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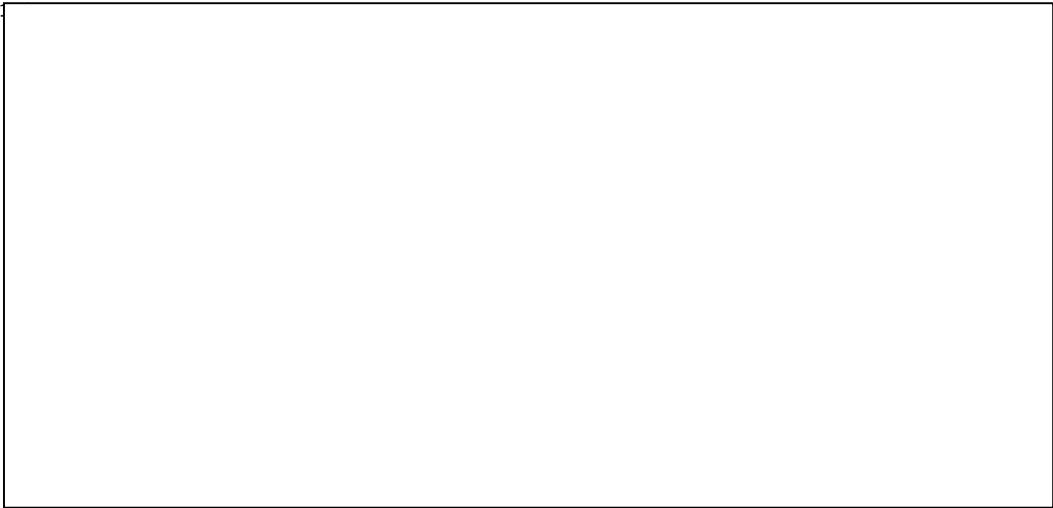
Message:

I wish to propose for a new tariff increase of 12p per mile on tariff one making it up to £1-44 per mile.

On tariff two 15p per mile making it up to £1-80 per mile.

On tariff three 20p per mile making it up to £2-40 per mile.





DARLINGTON PROPOSED TARIFF.

① 2.00 290 yds
12 147 yds - £1.44 per mile
12 30 secs.

② 2.50 240 yds
15 147 yds - £1.80 per mile
15 30 secs.

③ 3.00 240 yds
20 147 yds - £2.40 per mile
20 30 secs.

CHARGE EQUALS

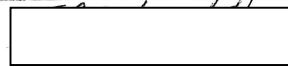
T1. - EXTRA 12P p/m
T2. - EXTRA 15P p/m
T3. - EXTRA 20P p/m



I am writing to reply to your letter, I agree with the fare increase.

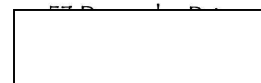
Hackney Carriage number 3.

Yours sincerely,



21 JUN 2006

23 JUN 2006



21/06/2006

Principal Licensing Officer,
Development & Environment Department,
11 Houndgate,
Darlington DL1 5RF.

Dear Ann Marku,

Proposed increase in Fares.

Thank you for your letter of 19th June.

I would like to make the following three points:-

- 1) I note that, once again, the minimum fare of £2 remains unchanged and has been with us for ten years or more. This is no longer viable and I would suggest that this be increased to £3 but allowing further to the first "click".
- 2) After talking to my colleagues, I find the overwhelming concern, is the 12p unit. Almost without exception they would like to see it replaced with a round figure, of say 20p.
- 3) The proposal to increase the mileage rate to £1.44 would seem to meet with universal dissent.

It is with these points in mind that I make the following proposal:-

	Tariff 1	Tariff 2
For the first 520yds or part thereof:	£3.00	£4.00
For each additional 260yds or part thereof:	£0.20	£0.25
Waiting time for each 50 seconds:	£0.20	£0.25

Effect:-

First mile costs:	£ 4.00	£5.25
Subsequent miles:	£ 1.35	£1.70

I am attaching the results of a survey carried out amongst those working at the railway station.



I have read the Tariff Increase Proposal made in Eric Grunblat's letter of 21st June and my views are as follows:-

Support

Plate No. & Signature

40. *Munat*
74 *AM*
108 *W. Williams*
-189 *[Signature]*
140 *[Signature]*
007 *[Signature]*
056 *[Signature]*
224 *[Signature]*
116 *[Signature]*
111 *[Signature]*
97 *[Signature]*
80 *[Signature]*
42. *[Signature]*
162 *A. Ormeau*
138 *A. Ormeau*
60 *R. Boyer*
171 *G. [Signature]*

Oppose

Plate No. & Signature

[Signature] 191



To whom it may concern,

The response to the proposed increase put forward by Mr Jenkinson is as follows;-

That there be a reduction of meter fares by 10% followed immediately by a licence fee reduction of 10%....

That the aforementioned reductions run in parallel.

That all future increases be brought to the general public's attention at least one month before a decision is made. This to include meter rises as well as licence fees. Licence fees not to be increased if there is no meter increase in the foreseeable future.

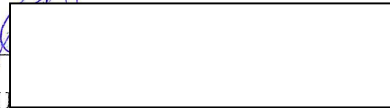
The above fares would make the taxi trades more competitive in today's market. Benefiting the public who use taxis on a regular basis.

The general public pays our wages which we then use to pay for our licences, so it must be said that the public have a right to know that we are not literally taking them for a ride.

With a lower meter fare in place there is an encouragement for more people to use the taxi trades. Which is a benefit to all concerned.

Signed

22 JU



23 JUN 2006

21 JUN 2006



Dear A. Marku,

I do not agree with the proposed tariff increase. It is not enough.

In the last 18 months the busses have had **four** increases,

The taxi trade has only had one in five and a half years of only 12p per mile.

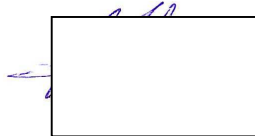
In the last five and a half years : -

- Diesel has gone up 29p a litre.
- Hackney plates have gone up £85.
- Badges have gone up £21.
- CRB checks £40.
- VOSA £92 (2 per year) – this used to be included in the plate price.

I would like to propose a flag and waiting time increase

	First 320 yards	Additional 160 yards	Waiting time
1	£3.00	12p	17p
2	£3.50	15p	20p
3	£4.00	20p	25p

Yours Sincerely



NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES FARE COMPARISON

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

TARIFF	EXISTING FIRST MILE	SUBSEQUENT MILE THEREAFTER	3 MILE
1 06.00am – 12 midnight	£2.55	£1.10	£4.75
TARIFF	EXISTING FIRST MILE	SUBSEQUENT MILE THEREAFTER	3 MILE
2 12 midnight – 06.00am	£3.40	£1.65	£6.70

REDCAR AND CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

TARIFF	EXISTING FIRST MILE	SUBSEQUENT MILE THEREAFTER	3 MILE
1 9.00am – 05.00pm	£2.20	£0.60	£3.40
TARIFF	EXISTING FIRST MILE	SUBSEQUENT MILE THEREAFTER	3 MILE
2 5.00pm – 11.30pm	£2.65	£1.00	£4.65
TARIFF	EXISTING FIRST MILE	SUBSEQUENT MILE THEREAFTER	3 MILE
3 11.30pm – 06.30am	£2.90	£1.00	£4.90

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

TARIFF	EXISTING FIRST MILE	SUBSEQUENT MILE THEREAFTER	3 MILE
1 7.00am – 11.00pm	£3.46	£1.82	£7.10
TARIFF	EXISTING FIRST MILE	SUBSEQUENT MILE THEREAFTER	3 MILE
2 11.00pm – 07.00am	£4.37	£2.34	£9.05

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

TARIFF	EXISTING FIRST MILE	SUBSEQUENT MILE THEREAFTER	3 MILE
1 6.00pm – 12.00pm	£2.40	£1.25	£4.90
TARIFF	EXISTING FIRST MILE	SUBSEQUENT MILE THEREAFTER	3 MILE
2 12.00pm – 06.00am	£3.60	£1.85	£7.30