

## Community Protection Committee

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| <b>DATE</b>    | 05/11/2025                                                              |
| <b>REPORT</b>  | Carolina Borgstrom<br>Director of Economy, Environment & Infrastructure |
| <b>SUBJECT</b> | Request to Raise Hackney Carriage Tariff (Table of Fares)               |
| <b>STATUS</b>  | Open                                                                    |

### CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIM

#### **Stronger Community:**

Ensure there is adequate and appropriate taxi provision for all within the borough to support safe travel.

#### **Stronger Economy:**

Ensuring support for the Hackney Carriage Trade by considering their relevant financial circumstances.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In accordance with legislation and public interest the Tariff for Hackney Carriage vehicles is set by the Licensing Authority (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. s 65).
- This report proposes an increase in North East Lincolnshire Council's Hackney Carriage Motorised Vehicles Table of Fares (Tariff).

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- That consideration is given as to whether to increase the Hackney Carriage Tariff in accordance with the request from the trade.
- That in the event the request is approved, subject to statutory public notice, that any objections received pursuant to advertisement be delegated and considered by the Executive Director of Environment, Economy and Resources in consultation with the Chair of Licensing and Community Protection Committee.

### REASONS FOR DECISION

- To determine whether to approve the proposed table of fares as outlined in this report

## 1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 There are three tariffs for various operational hours and public holiday periods as shown in the current tariff in background paper 2. Tariff 1 applies at all times except for the times that Tariff 2, and Tariff 3 are operational. Tariff 2 applies from 23.00 hours up to 06.00 hours the following day, and all public holidays including Easter Sunday, excluding the Christmas and New Year period. Tariff 3 applies from 18.00 hours Christmas Eve, through Christmas Day, Boxing Day up to 06.00 hours the following day and from 18.00 hours on New Years' Eve, through New Years' Day up to 06.00 hours the following day.
- 1.2 The previous increase to the Table of Fares was agreed by Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022. A copy of the current agreed table of fares is attached to this report.
- 1.3 A written request for an increase to the Table of Fares for motorised vehicles has been submitted:  
  
**50p on the first mile of all 3 tariffs and to increase the price of the soiling charge to £100.**
- 1.4 A representative of the drivers requesting the rise has been invited to attend the Committee. This representative would be available to answer any questions the Committee may have with regards to the request.
- 1.5 Any variation to the table of fares is subject to a statutory notice period.

## 2. RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY ISSUES

- 2.1 In terms of Human Rights it is important that any decision does not give rise to any cause for litigation by any potential / actual Hackney Carriage driver.
- 2.2 There is an economic and competitive risk that if the current tariff is not fit for purpose the Taxi trade will suffer financially.
- 2.3 There is an opportunity for the trade to make service improvements because of a required tariff rise being introduced.
- 2.4 There is an opportunity to support the taxi service within the Borough by providing a suitable tariff.
- 2.5 There is a risk that service users might be adversely affected by an excessive tariff, but this would also directly impact on the trade.
- 2.6 There is also a risk that if the proposed increases are not approved that the Hackney Carriage drivers may not be able to provide the same level of service as the price affects supply and demand.
- 2.7 The Impact on the Social, Economic and Environmental well-being of the Borough has been considered and ultimately, whilst the Licensing Authority do not provide support the taxi trade, It is the interest of the borough to maintain

a sustainable taxi service funded through the charges it makes to passengers.

- 2.8 An initial equalities impact assessment of the implications of the proposals has been undertaken and no significant impacts were identified that required further action.

### **3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

Committee could refuse the application or set an alternative tariff.

### **4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS**

There are potential positive reputational implications in relation to this decision where properly justified. An action plan has been agreed with the Council's communications service covering information requirements and communication channels to be utilised.

### **5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The proposal is consistent with the Council's finance strategy and if the reasoning behind the request is justifiable could potentially help to contribute to improved value for money for the taxi trade and passengers.

### **6. CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS**

Whilst there are no direct implications, the provision of Hackney Carriages is an important method of safe transport for this group and adds more weight to supporting a justifiable request by the trade to increase the tariff so as to continue to provide an effective service.

### **7. CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE RECOVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Licensing policies aim to reduce emissions levels from the fleet by encouraging the use of newer vehicles. Allowing licence holders to charge fares that allow investment in their vehicles is beneficial in this respect.

### **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications to the Council because of the proposed increases in fares that Hackney Carriage Operators can charge.

### **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (the Act) gives a local authority the power to fix the rates or fares of Hackney Carriages within its area (as well as all other charges in connection with the hire of the vehicle) by means of a table of fares.

9.2 The process set out in the Act states that a notice must be published in a local newspaper, stating the proposed fares or variation of the fares. The notice must specify a date, not less than 14 days from the date on which the notice

is first published. That date has two functions; it is the date by which any objections must be lodged; and it is the date on which the revised fares will come into effect if no objections are received.

9.3 In addition a copy of the notice must be available at the Council offices for inspection.

9.4 Once the objection period has expired, if there have been no objections then the new fares take effect at the end of the objection period.

9.5 If objections are made and not withdrawn then the Council must consider the objections, decide, and set a second date when the fares, with or without modifications, will come into force, this date must be no later than 2 months after the first specified date. There is no right of appeal against the fares once set.

9.6 The recommendations and delegations sought are appropriate for such a determination and are consistent with previous approaches to such requests from the trade for proposed changes to table of fares. Any decisions should be evidence based, justified, reasonable and proportionate.

## **10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

## **11. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

All Wards

## **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Current Table of Fares

## **13. CONTACT OFFICERS**

Adrian Moody 324759

Tracey Cook 324035

**Carolina Borgstrom**  
**Director of Economy, Environment & Infrastructure**

# TABLE OF FARES

|                                                                                                                                                                                                        | FLAG  | 1 <sup>st</sup> MILE<br>INCLUDING<br>FLAG | EACH MILE<br>THEREAFTER | WAITING TIME       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| TARIFF 1                                                                                                                                                                                               | £2.70 | £5.10                                     | £2.10                   | £15.00<br>PER HOUR |
| TARIFF 2                                                                                                                                                                                               | £3.00 | £5.80                                     | £2.60                   | £15.00<br>PER HOUR |
| Applies 22.30 hours to 06.00 hours and All Public Holidays, including Easter Sunday, Except Christmas and New Year                                                                                     |       |                                           |                         |                    |
| TARIFF 3                                                                                                                                                                                               | £3.50 | £6.30                                     | £2.90                   | £18.00<br>PER HOUR |
| Applies from 18.00 hrs Christmas Eve, Through Christmas Day and Boxing Day up to 06.00 hrs the following day and from 18.00 hrs New Years Eve, Through New Years Day up to 06.00 hrs the following day |       |                                           |                         |                    |

The above tariff applies regardless of the number of passengers carried or the size of vehicle