



Committee	Cabinet
Date	06/02/2024
Subject	Application for Taxi Fare Increase for the south of the District
Cabinet Member	Councillor Jan Candy Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health
Report Author(s)	Martin Clarke Licensing Manager and Housing Lead Lawyer Martin.clarke@east Suffolk.gov.uk
Head of Service	Chris Bing Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer chris.bing@east Suffolk.gov.uk
Director	Kate Blakemore Strategic Director kate.blakemore@east Suffolk.gov.uk

Key Decision?	No
Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN

Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is NOT in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not Applicable
---	----------------

Purpose/Summary

For the Cabinet to consider a proposal received from a group of licensed hackney carriage drivers in the South of the East Suffolk district for an increase to the hackney carriage fares tariff for the South of the district.

There are 3 options:

1. To approve the proposal for the increase to the hackney carriage fare tariff for the South of the district.
2. The Licensing Manager and Housing Lead Lawyer be granted delegated authority to determine any objection to the proposal arising out of the public consultation in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health.
3. Not to approve the proposal for the increase to the hackney carriage fare tariff for the South of the district and leave the current tariff in place.

Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

1. approves the proposal for the increase to the hackney carriage fare tariff for the south of the district.
2. grants delegated authority to the Licensing Manager and Housing Lead Lawyer to determine any objection to the proposal arising out of the public consultation in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health.

Strategic plan

How does this proposal support Our Direction 2028?

Environmental Impact	No Impact
Sustainable Housing	No Impact
Tackling Inequalities	No Impact
Thriving Economy	Approving the proposal for the increase to the hackney carriage fare will assist the drivers and operators, local drivers and businesses in running viable local businesses
Our Foundations / governance of the organisation	Licensing is a Council function exercised by Licensing Committee and Licensing Sub-Committees. The setting of fares and ranks is an executive function and any proposal approved by the Licensing Committee will need to be presented to a meeting of Cabinet

Justification for recommendations

1. Background

- 1.1. The Council is responsible for licensing hackney carriage and private hire drivers and vehicles, and private hire operators. It has the power to set and vary fares for hackney carriages under section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 1.2. Section 55 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 prohibits the driver of a hackney carriage from charging more than the set fare.
- 1.3. If the Council proposes to make any changes to the existing fares it must publish a notice in a local newspaper, setting out the proposed variation. The notice must specify a date (not less than 14 days from publication), and manner by which any objections should be made and if no objections are received then the new fares will come into force on the date specified. The Council must consider any objections that have been made and have not been withdrawn.
- 1.4. The last increase to the hackney carriage fare tariff in the South of the district was in October 2020. Following consultation, it came into force in December 2020.
- 1.5. There are 2 hackney carriage fare tariffs for the district, a north and a south fare. On the 19th April 2021, following a consultation with the Hackney Carriage drivers and operators, the Licensing Committee decided to keep the 2 tariff system in place. The consultation response was overwhelmingly that they wished to keep the 2 separate fares in place.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. The current South fare tariff table is attached as **Appendix A**.

3. Proposal

- 3.1. The proposal for the increase to the South fare tariff has been presented by Mr Stokell on behalf of a number of licensed drivers:

In relation to Tariff 1 for journeys carried out between 5.30am and 10.30pm –

- There should be a 20p increase in the minimum fare and a reduction to 700 yards in distance. This would result in a minimum fare of £3.80, the current minimum fare is £3.60.
- There should be a reduction in the subsequent distance from 220 yards to 200 yards.

In relation to Tariff 2 for journeys carried out between 10.30pm and 5.30am

- There should be a 30p increase in the minimum fare and a reduction to 700 yards in distance. This would result in a minimum fare of £4.50, the current minimum fare is £4.20.

- There should be a reduction in the subsequent distance from 196 yards to 180 yards.

In relation to additional charges -

- Extra passengers – to increase the charge for extra passengers in excess of 3 from 20p to 30p
- Luggage – to increase the charge for use of the luggage compartment from 20p to 30p.

Mr Stokell’s proposal is attached at **Appendix B**.

3.2 The effect of the proposal is as follows:

Tariff 1:

Distance	Current Fare	Proposed Fare Flag-fall increase of 20p @ 200 yardage
987yds (proposed 700 yds)	£3.60	£3.80
1 mile	£4.60	£5.00
2 miles	£6.20	£6.80
5 miles	£11.00	£12.00
10 miles	£19.00	£20.80
15 miles	£27.00	£29.60
20 miles	£35.00	£38.40

Tariff 2:

Distance	Current Fare	Proposed Fare Flag-fall increase of 20p @ 180 yardage
987yds (proposed 700 yds)	£4.20	£4.50
1 mile	£5.20	£5.70
2 miles	£7.00	£7.70
5 miles	£12.40	£13.50
10 miles	£21.40	£23.30
15 miles	£30.40	£33.10
20 miles	£39.40	£42.90

3.3 The fare was requested due to increased costs including insurance, utility and licensing fees. Whilst an increase will result in a higher fare for passengers, it is submitted that the trade is best placed to know what the correct tariff as if the fare is set too high they will lose customers, too low and they will not be able to run a viable business.

3.4 The proposal was approved by Licensing Committee at their meeting on the 15th January 2024.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. No Impact

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1. The Council is responsible for licensing hackney carriage and private hire drivers and vehicles, and private hire operators. It has the power to set and vary fares for hackney carriages under section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
- 5.2. If the Council proposes to make any changes to the existing fares it must publish a notice in a local newspaper, setting out the proposed variation. The notice must specify a date (not less than 14 days from publication), and manner by which any objections should be made and if no objections are received then the new fares will come into force on the date specified. A copy of the notice shall also be deposited at the Council Offices for a period of 14 days from the date of first publication for public inspection at all reasonable hours and without payment. The Council will also contact all Hackney Carriage Drivers and Operators directly to consult with them. The Council must consider any objections that have been made and have not been withdrawn.
- 5.3. If no objection to a table of fares or variations is duly made within the period specified, or if all objections are withdrawn, the table of fares 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, whichever date is the later.
- 5.4. If an objection is duly made and is not withdrawn, the 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 the Council after consideration of the objections.
- 5.5. Therefore if no objection is received then the table of fares into force on the date specified in the Notice. If an objection is received and not resolved the table of fares will be determined within 2 months of the date specified in the notice.

6. Risk Implications

- 6.1. No Impact

7. Options

- 7.1. To approve the proposal for the increase to the hackney carriage fare tariff for the South of the district.
- 7.2. Not to approve the proposal for the increase to the hackney carriage fare tariff for the South of the district and leave the current tariff in place.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1. That Cabinet approve the proposal for the increase to the hackney carriage fare tariff for the South of the district.

8.2 The Licensing Manager and Housing Lead Lawyer be granted delegated authority to determine any objection to the proposal in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health

9. Reasons for Recommendations

9.1. The last increase to the hackney carriage maximum scale of fares in the South of the district was approved by Licensing Committee in October 2020 and following consultation came into force in December 2020.

9.2 This proposal was approved by Licensing Committee at their meeting on the 15th January 2024.

9.3 To comply with the requirements to determine applications for an increase in a fare tariff in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

9.4 To enable any objections or comments to be resolved, where appropriate to do so, without the delay of having to go back to cabinet.

10. Conclusions/Next Steps

10.1. If approved, the next step is to publish a notice in a local newspaper, setting out the proposed variation. The notice must specify a date (not less than 14 days from publication), and manner by which any objections should be made and if no objections are received then the new fares will come into force on the date specified. A copy of the notice shall also be deposited at the Council Offices for a period of 14 days from the date of first publication for public inspection at all reasonable hours and without payment. The Council will also contact all Hackney Carriage Drivers and Operators directly to consult with them. The Council must consider any objections that have been made and have not been withdrawn.

Areas of consideration comments

Section 151 Officer comments:

This proposal has no financial implications on the Council as this does not relate to fee and charge income collected by the Council.

Monitoring Officer comments:

Determining applications for increases in hackney carriage fares is an executive function to be exercised by the Cabinet.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion/EQIA:

EQIA completed reference EQIA578306541

Safeguarding:

No Impact

Crime and Disorder:

No Impact

Corporate Services implications:

(i.e., Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources, Digital, Customer Services, Asset Management)

No Impact

Residents and Businesses consultation/consideration:

To be carried out if approved by Cabinet.

Appendices:

Appendix A	The current South fare tariff table.
Appendix B	Mr Stokell's request for an increase to the hackney carriage maximum scale of fares in the South.

Background reference papers:

None.