



LICENSING COMMITTEE

Monday, 15 January 2024

Subject	Application for taxi fare increase
Report by	Councillor Jan Candy Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health
Report Author(s)	Martin Clarke Licensing Manager and Housing Lead Lawyer martin.clarke@eastsoffolk.gov.uk
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Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
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Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is NOT in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not Applicable
Wards Affected:	All Wards

Purpose and high-level overview

Purpose of Report:

For the Licensing Committee 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.

Options:

1. To approve the proposal for the increase to the hackney carriage fare tariff for the South of the district.
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.

Recommendation/s:

That the Committee considers and determines the application for an increase to the hackney carriage maximum fare tariff for the South of the district.

Corporate Impact Assessment

Governance:

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.

ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

Environmental:

No impact

Equalities and Diversity:

No impact

Financial:

No impact

Human Resources:

No impact

ICT:

No impact

Legal: No impact
Risk: No impact

External Consultees:	Licensed Hackney Carriage Drivers within East Suffolk. Members of the public.
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Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the Strategic Plan which are supported by this proposal: <i>(Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)</i>		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
T01	Growing our Economy		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
T02	Enabling our Communities		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T03	Maintaining Financial Sustainability		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T04	Delivering Digital Transformation		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T05	Caring for our Environment		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
XXX	Governance		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How does this proposal support the priorities selected?

Licensing plays an important role in the themes in the Council's Strategic Plan of growing our economy and enabling our community's Hackney carriage (and private hire vehicles) are a key part of the public transport system, enabling people without their own private transport or without easy access to other means of public transport to travel for education, employment, and entertainment, to shop and to attend medical appointments or deliver/receive care.

Background and Justification for Recommendation

1 Background facts	
1.1	<p>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.</p> <p>Section 55 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 prohibits the driver of a hackney carriage from charging more than the set fare.</p>
1.2	<p>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.</p>
1.3	<p>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.</p>

2 Current position	
2.1	<p>The current South fare tariff table is attached as Appendix A.</p>
2.2	<p>The proposal for the increase to the South fare tariff has been presented by Mr Stokell on behalf of a number of licensed drivers:</p> <p>In relation to Tariff 1 for journeys carried out between 5.30am and 10.30pm –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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**.

2.3 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	
3.1	Mr Stokell, in his proposal, has stated increased costs to licensed drivers including an increase in utilities and office rents, and insurances. The Committee will need to consider the proposal for the increase in the fare tariff in order to meet some of these costs.

3 Reason/s for recommendation	
4.1	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.
4.2	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.

Appendices

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	