



LICENSING COMMITTEE

Monday 19 October 2020

APPLICATION FOR TAXI FARE INCREASE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An application has been received requesting an increase in the Hackney Carriage fares tariff in the South of the East Suffolk district.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Mary Rudd – Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health
Supporting Officer:	Chris Bing Legal and Licensing Services Manager 01394 444408 chris.bing@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An application has been received requesting an increase in the Hackney Carriage fares tariff in the South of the East Suffolk District and the Committee is requested to consider the proposal.

2 BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The maximum scale of fares for hackney carriages fixed by the Council was last revised in May 2012, as a result of which the following scale of fares came into effect in July 2012:
- 2.2 Current fare table:

3.40p	TARIFF 1 (05:30 – 22:30)
	For the first 800 yards (731.5m) or 5 minutes or part thereof or a combination of parts of such distance and time
20p	For each subsequent 251.4 yards (229.8m) or 38 seconds or a combination of parts of such distance and time
3.90p	TARIFF 2 (22:30 – 05:30)
	For the first 800 yards (731.5m) or 5 minutes or part thereof or a combination of parts of such distance and time
20p	For each subsequent 220 yards (201.1m) or 33 seconds or a combination of parts of such distance and time
20p	2.3 EXTRA CHARGES
	Additional Passengers - each additional passenger in excess of three (excluding infants in arms)
20p	Luggage - for use of the luggage compartment (no restriction on number of items)
	VEHICLE SOILING: a charge up to a maximum of £75.00 may be made for the soiling of a vehicle.
+50%	2.4 BANK HOLIDAYS
	For any hiring commenced between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 04:00hrs on a Bank Holiday and 04:00hrs the next day • 14:00hrs and 24:00hrs on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve • 00:01hrs and 24:00hrs on Bank Holidays in lieu of 25thDecember, 26th December and 1st January
+100%	2.5 CHRISTMAS DAY, BOXING DAY & NEW YEARS DAY
	For any hiring commenced between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 00:01hrs Christmas Day and 04:00hrs on the 27th December and 00:01 New Years Day and 04:00 on the 2nd January.

2.3 NEW PROPOSAL

This proposal has been presented by Mr Mike Stokell on behalf of a number of drivers:

In relation to Tariff 1 for journeys carried out between 05:30 hrs and 22:30 hrs

- There should be a 20p increase in the minimum fare for the first 800 yards. This would result in a minimum fare of £3.60.
- There should be a reduction in the subsequent distance from 251.4 yards to 220 yards to allow an increase in charge from £1.40 per mile to £1.60 per mile.

In relation to Tariff 2 for journeys carried out between 22:30 hrs and 05:30 hrs

- There should be a 30p increase in the minimum fare for the first 800 yards. This would result in a minimum fare of £4.20.
- There should be a reduction in the subsequent distance from 220 yards to 196 yards to allow an increase in charge from £1.60 per mile to £1.80 per mile

All other charges should remain the same.

2.4 The correspondence from Mr Stokell is attached as **Appendix A**.

2.5 The effect of the proposal is as follows:

Tariff 1:

Distance	Current Fare	Proposed Fare Flag-fall increase of 20p @ 220 yardage
800yds	£3.40	£3.60
1Mile	£4.20	£4.60
2 Miles	£5.60	£6.20
5 Miles	£9.80	£11.00
10 Miles	£16.80	£19.00
15 Miles	£23.80	£27.00

Tariff 2:

Distance	Current Fare	Proposed Fare Flag-fall increase of 20p @ 196 yardage
800yds	£3.90	£4.20
1Mile	£4.90	£5.20
2 Miles	£6.50	£7.00
5 Miles	£11.30	£12.40
10 Miles	£19.30	£21.40
15 Miles	£27.30	£30.40

3 LEGISLATIVE PROVISION

- 3.1 Section 65 of Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 gives Local Authorities the power to set and vary fares for hackney carriages.
- 3.2 Section 55 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 prohibits a driver from charging more than the set fare.
- 3.3 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.

4 HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN?

- 4.1 Licensing plays an important role in the building of a strong, sustainable, and dynamic local economy and in ensuring East Suffolk remains a safe place for our communities.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 If no objections are received, the increase will come into effect at the beginning of December 2020. If there are objections, these will be considered at the January 2021 meeting of the Committee, after which the fares will come into force with or without modification.

6 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 There has not been an increase to the hackney carriage maximum scale of fares for eight years. Mr Stokell has said that all related costs other than fuel have increased during the last eight years.

RECOMMENDATION

That, having received and considered the report, the Licensing Committee determines the application for the fare increase.

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Correspondence from Mr Mike Stokell
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Please note that copies of background papers have not been published on the Council's website www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk but copies of the background papers listed below are available for public inspection free of charge by contacting the relevant Council Department.

Date	Type	Available From
	None	

