

Crawley Borough Council

	Report No: PES/128	B
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Report to the Licensing Committee

12 November 2013

Hackney Carriage Fares, 2013 - 2014

1.0 Key Points

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to consider proposals for a requested increase to the Hackney Carriage table of fares for the year 2013 – 2014.
- 1.2. The last increase to the Hackney Carriage fares table was undertaken December 2012. A copy of the current table of fares is set out in **Appendix A** of this report.
- 1.3. The increase is being requested by the Hackney Carriage Association further to the balloting of their members.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. **The Committee is requested to consider the following proposal put forward by the Executive of the Crawley Hackney Carriage Association:**
 - I. **That the starting tariff (for Tariff 1) which is currently £3.80 be increased to £4.00, this will equate to an overall rise of 20p regardless of distance.**
 - II. **The current “running mile of £2.11 (on Tariff 1) be increased by 20p to £2.31.**
 - III. **Waiting time currently set at £15.00 per hour (on Tariff 1) is increased by 8% to £16.20.**
 - IV. **Tariff 2 returned to time and a half. This would set Tariff 2 at £6.00 for the first mile.**
 - V. **Tariff 3 to be returned to double time. This would set Tariff 3 at £8.00 for the first mile.**
 - VI. **The soilage charge to be increased from £55.00 to £75.00.**

- 2.2** If the Committee decide to accept the proposals, then it grants permission to advertise the above recommendations in the local press and resolve to adopt the table of fares as set out in the Appendices together with any inclusion or exclusion resolved by Members.
- 2.3** Should any objection be made to the advert duly placed, the Committee must meet to consider any objection that may be lodged within the specified time period. If no objection is received it is recommended that the Committee resolve to approve the proposals with an implementation date set for 4 December 2013.

ANGELA TANNER
Head of Planning and Environmental Services

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Council as Licensing Authority for the Borough of Crawley is the appropriate authority for the purposes of setting Hackney Carriage fares in accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 3.2 It is the Council's informal policy to consult with the relevant trade association when establishing an appropriate 'table of fares' to apply for the following year.
- 3.3 Following consultation with the local hackney carriage trade a report is drafted and presented for the consideration of the Licensing Committee.
- 3.4 The report includes the hackney carriage trade's proposals and officers views if appropriate as regards possible alternative options.
- 3.5 Subject to the approval of report by the Licensing Committee the fare structure for the following year is published in the form of a public notice in the local press. A statutory period of not less than 14 days is allowed for any objection to be submitted.
- 3.6 A copy of the notice shall at all reasonable times be available to the public for inspection without payment at the Town Hall for a period of 14 days from the date of first publication.
- 3.7 If objections are received, they are reported back to the Licensing Committee for due consideration. The Licensing Committee may then decide to proceed with the advertised table of fares or amend it, having taken into account any objection.
- 3.8 If no objection is received, the proposed table of fares takes effect on the date specified by the Licensing Committee.
- 3.9 The table of fares set by the Licensing Committee will continue in that form until such time as the Licensing Committee determine. However, the Council's standard practice is to review these fares annually to prevent potential large increases.

4.0 Determining the New Hackney Carriage Fares

- 4.1 The last increase in the Hackney Carriage fare table was applied on 7th December 2012. The Hackney Carriage trade requested a 20p increase on the initial flag fare and Committee decided that an increase of 20p on the flag fare would be approved. The current table of fares is shown in **Appendix A**.
- 4.2 At the meeting on 12th November 2012 Elected Members also requested the following:-

That officers of Crawley Borough Council invite the Hackney Carriage Association, on the next occasion that the Hackney Carriage Association ask for an increase in Hackney Carriage Fares, to provide evidence in support of their request including: information relating to fuel and insurance increases; the estimated percentage increase in profit in the average working week should their proposed increase be agreed; and comparison and trend figures for the past two years showing inflationary pressures compared with changes to their

income for themselves (profits).

- 4.3 Following consultation with the Crawley Hackney Association the Council received an email on 20th October 2013 which outlined the Hackney Carriage trade's proposal as set out in **Appendix B**
- 4.4 The report includes the Hackney Carriage trade's proposals and a comparison of charges with that of the neighbouring local authorities at **Appendix C**. These are based on last year's tariffs and it is not known whether or not our neighbouring authorities are planning an increase for the forthcoming year.
- 4.5 A further table has also attached which shows Tariff 1, Tariff 2 and Tariff 3 comparisons with the other authorities and covers 1-5 mile and 10 mile. This is attached as **Appendix D**.

5.0 Ward Members' Views

- 5.1. The Council on this occasion has not consulted or sought the views of Ward Members as this matter is not ward specific. There is also a formal consultation process, as described above.

6.0 Staffing, Financial and Legal Implications/Powers

- 6.1. The increase of Hackney Carriage fares is controlled by statute and set independently of the procedure used to set the Council's general fees and charges.
- 6.2. The legislation sets out a statutory period regarding the time allowed for objection. Unlike other sections of the Act which allow for objectors or aggrieved persons to appeal to a magistrates court, Section 65(4) requires all objections to the proposed table of fares to be referred to the licensing authority which made the original decision.
- 6.3 There are no extra staffing or financial implications to the Council.
- 6.4. **Article 1** of the First Protocol of the Human Rights Act 1998 entitles every person to the right to peaceful enjoyment of their possessions, which includes their livelihood or their means of earning it. The impact of a fare tariff may affect a person's livelihood or their means of earning it. In setting a fare tariff the Council must consider the impact on both the public and those whose livelihood may be affected.

7.0 Risk Implications

- 7.1 None.

8.0 Environmental Implications

- 8.1 None.

9.0 Links to the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Plan

9.1 The proposals contained in this report relate to the following key areas of the Sustainable Community Strategy

Community Cohesion Young People and Children		Community Safety Health and Well Being	y
Older People The Local Economy	Y	The Environment Social Inclusion	y

The following key principles are applicable:-

(i) Working together	y
(ii) Dignity, respect and opportunities for all	y
(iii) Involving People	y
(iv) Making it last	y

The report relates to the following areas in which the Council operates to enhance the town and the quality of life of local people:-

(i) Prosperity	y
(ii) Community	y
(iii) Environment	y
(iv) Value for Money	y

10.0 Reasons for the Recommendation

10.1. Members of the Hackney Carriage Trade have requested that the Council consider the current fare structure, in the light of the rising cost of inflation.

10.2. The procedure for changing the fares requires the Licensing Committee to consider the matter and decide a fare structure that they consider to be appropriate. This needs to be carried out bearing in mind those affected, namely the Members of the Hackney Carriage Trade, their customers, and the public.

10.3 Although the views of the trade are particularly relevant they are only one factor to be considered.

10.4 The Licensing Committee may also make any changes to the table that it considers reasonable and appropriate.

10.5 A decision needs to be made at this meeting to enable the relevant statutory consultation to be completed.

11.0 Background Papers

- 11.1 Letter from the Crawley Hackney Association received 25th October 2013.
2012 -2013 Hackney Carriage Fares Tariff Card.
Taxi Tariffs from neighbouring authorities.

Contact Officer: Bill Nailen
Direct Line: 01293 438734

Crawley Hackney Carriage Fares

The table of fares made by the Council under Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

Valid from the 7th day of December 2012.

Tariff 1 Applies to all hirings except those mentioned in tariffs 2 and 3	
Initial distance not exceeding 1,608 metres (1,759 yards) or 8 minutes 25 seconds or un-completed part thereof	£3.80
For a distance of 1,609 metres (1,760 yards) or 8 minutes 25 seconds or un-completed part thereof	£4.00
For each subsequent 153 metres (167 yards) or 48 seconds or un-completed part thereof	20p
Tariff 2 Applies to all hirings begun between midnight and 6am including all Bank Holidays and all hirings from 18:00 hours to 23:59 hours on 24 December and from 18:00 hours on New Year's Eve to 23:59 on 1 January.	
Initial distance not exceeding 1,608 metres (1,759 yards) 8 minutes or un-completed part thereof	£4.80
For a distance of 1,609 metres (1,760 yards) or 8 minutes or un-completed part thereof	£5.10
For each subsequent 161 metres (176 yards) or 48 seconds or un-completed part thereof	30p
Tariff 3 Applies to all hirings from 00:01 hours on 25 December to midnight on 26 December.	
Initial distance not exceeding 1,608 metres (1,759 yards) or 8 minutes or un-completed part thereof.	£6.00
For a distance of 1,609 metres (1,760 yards) or 8 minutes or un-completed part thereof.	£6.40
For each subsequent 161 metres (176 yards) or 48 seconds or un-completed part thereof.	40p
Extra Charges A soilage charge of £55 (minimum) Subject to the licensed capacity of the vehicle, the driver when carrying more than 4 persons, may be entitled to charge tariff 2. Where a Hackney Carriage is hired by distance the proprietor or driver shall not be entitled to demand and take a fare greater than that recorded on the face of the taximeter, save for any extra charges authorised by the above table which may not be recorded on the face of such meter. The driver may charge any 'road charge or tolls' where applicable (this must be agreed with the customer before hire commences).	

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Appendix B

Crawley Hackney Carriage Drivers Association
c/o 4 Juxon close
Crawley
RH11 8JY
01293-853719
martinfasey@sky.com

Environmental Health Department
Crawley Council
Civic Hall, Boulevard
Crawley, W Sussex

Ms Tanner,

As per the request from your office following our ballot result please find below the rationale supporting a request for

- an increase of 20p on the start rate for the first mile (currently £3.80)
- an increase of 20p on the running mile rate (currently 2.10)
- Return Tariff 2 back to Time and a Half
- Return Tariff 3 back to double time
(Both these Tariff's had been frozen at the request of the drivers in 2006)

The total impact of this on a journey of 2.4miles is 40p or 6%

- increase of the soilage charge from £55 to £75
- waiting time to increase in line with proposed tariff increase at 6%
- Night rate to be returned to time and a half
- Vehicles with a capacity of more than 4 passengers entitled to charge Tariff 3 between midnight and 6am

To support our proposal we have analysed the main costs incurred by Hackney Carriages licenced by Crawley Council.

Cost incurred	2006	2013	% increase
CBC Licence Costs	240	331.5	38%
Insurance	£1250	1750	38%
Fuel Costs	96.3p/ltr	136.9p/ltr	42%
CBC Drivers (DVLA)	50	71.50	43%
Current charge for 2.4miles	5.70	6.30	11%

As is clear we have experienced consistent and extremely high increases in costs over the last 7 years.

Over this period we have received no increase in the running mile rate on daytime tariff 1 and a total increase of 60p, or less than 3% per annum, solely on the first mile rate. (and we froze the Time and a half tariff 2 and double time tariff 3)

The Insurance figures are based on a typical Taxi with 6 years no claims bonus.

This is impacted even more when average mileage is down from ~80k per vehicle in 2006 to 32k in 2013 a drop of 60%. (These Mileage figures include private hire vehicles.)

There are a number of other significant increases in running costs that we have experienced in recent years including

- Required Medical Certificate – previous costs £25 through Gatwick Penta Hotel doctor however as per the requirements of Crawley Council using our own GP - £96 (per 3 years)
- Vehicle Maintenance – on average an increase from £2k P.A in 2006 to £6k in 2013
- Breakdown Cover – up 30% on average.(for the 7 year period
- Plating a new Taxi up from £25 in 2006 to £140 in 2013 This cost is impacted when a driver has to use an Insurance replacement Taxi, While his Taxi is being repaired.

It is for these reason that we believe the proposed tariff increase is reasonable. At the current rates it is getting harder for Hackney Carriage drivers to make ends meet. We provide a valuable service to the community, supporting wheelchair passengers, remote areas and local commuters to other transport connections when public transport fails.

We are happy to provide evidence to support the above figures.

In addition we are requesting an increase in the soilage charge to match the minimum required to take a claim to small claims court. This will continue to act as a deterrent but provide a legal channel should it be required.

The proposed increase in waiting time charge is in line with the tariff increase.

We would also ask for time and a half to be restored to Tariff 2 and for vehicles accommodating more than 4 passengers to be able to charge Tariff 3 as at the moment they are not able to charge more between midnight and 6am. The insurance for vehicles for more than 4 passengers is £456 more p.a than the figures illustrated above.

I believe that we have put together a strong argument for all of our proposals and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Kind regards

Martin Feasey
Secretary
Crawley Hackney Carriage Drivers Association



**Horsham
District
Council**

TABLE OF MAXIMUM FARES

FOR VEHICLES CARRYING 1 - 4 PERSONS

TARIFF 1 - Effective for hiring begun between 07.00am and 11.29pm

For the first 1200m or 6min 25 secs or combination of distance & time (or part)	£3.80
For each additional 85m or 20 secs or combination of distance & time (or part)	£0.10

TARIFF 2 - Effective for hiring begun between 11.30pm and 06.59am

For the first 1200m or 6 min 25 secs or combination of distance & time (or part)	£5.70
For each additional 85m or 20 secs or combination of distance & time (or part)	£0.15

TARIFF 3 - Effective from midnight to midnight on Bank Holidays, Public Holidays, Christmas Day and Good Friday and from 6pm New Years Eve

For the first 1200m or 6min 25 secs or combination of distance & time (or part)	£7.60
For each additional 85m or 20 secs or combination of distance & time (or part)	£0.20

FOR VEHICLES CARRYING 5 - 8 PASSENGERS

TARIFF 4 - Effective for hiring begun between 07.00am and 11.29pm

For the first 1200m or 6 min 25 secs or combination of distance and time (or part)	£5.70
For each additional 85m or 20 secs or combination of distance and time (or part)	£0.15

TARIFF 5 - Effective for hiring begun between 11.30pm and 06.59am

For the first 1200m or 6 min 25 secs or combination of distance & time (or part)	£7.65
For each additional 85m or 20 secs or combination of distance and time (or part)	£0.20

TARIFF 6 - Effective for hiring from midnight to midnight on Bank Holidays, Public Holidays, Christmas Day and Good Friday and from 6pm New Years Eve

For the first 1200m or 6 min 25 secs or combination of distance & time (or part)	£10.20
For each additional 85m or 20 secs or combination of distance or time (or part)	£0.30

EXTRA CHARGES

Where licensed to carry 1-4 passengers, each passenger in excess of two	£0.10
Where licensed to carry 5-8 passengers, each passenger in excess of six	£0.10
For each box or package carried outside the passenger compartment of the vehicle	£0.10

SOILAGE CHARGE

If this vehicle is damaged or soiled by a passenger the driver or proprietor is entitled to recover all costs of cleaning or repairing such damage or soiling from the passenger/person responsible.

**Please report any comments or complaints to:
The Licensing Officer, Park House, North Street, Horsham, RH12 1RL
Tel: 01403 215471**

HACKNEY CARRIAGE REGULATIONS

- Before hiring a taxi make sure you have the means to pay. Deliberate failure to make payment after the journey is a **criminal offence**.
- The driver of this vehicle is required to wear an identity/licence badge.
- The driver must, unless they have a reasonable excuse, accept any hiring within the Borough.
- The meter must be engaged at the commencement of the hiring and the fare on the meter must clearly be visible to passengers at all times.
- Meters display the **maximum** chargeable fare.
- Mileage rates may be charged from point of pick up only.
- If the journey takes the cab outside the borough of Reigate & Banstead, the driver **MUST** still charge in accordance with the above scale unless he or she agrees otherwise with the hirer **before the journey has started**.

Reigate & Banstead
BOROUGH COUNCIL
Banstead | Horley | Redhill | Reigate

Cab Number

XX

LOST PROPERTY ENQUIRIES, COMPLAINTS OR COMMENTS

Reigate & Banstead Borough Council,
Town Hall, Castlefield Road, Reigate,
Surrey RH2 0SH

T:01737-276672

licensing@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

STATEMENT OF FARES: Fares for distance and/or time from 3rd December 2011.
All distance and time charges include uncompleted parts thereof, and include VAT

Rate 1: Basic Rate

Hirings between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays, excluding bank holidays, Christmas and New Year.

£3.60 first mile (1609 metres)
20p each additional 162 yards (148 metres) or 39 seconds of waiting time.

Rate 2: Late Evenings and Nights, Sundays and Bank Holidays

Hirings between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. Mondays to Fridays. Hirings between 10 p.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. Monday.
Hirings begun on Bank Holidays (excluding Christmas Day, Boxing Day and 10pm.to midnight 24 and 31 December)

£4.50 first mile (1609 metres)
20p each additional 130 yards (118 metres) or 31 seconds of waiting time.

Rate 3: Christmas and New Year

Hirings between 8p.m. on 24 December and 7a.m. on 27 December, and
between 8p.m. on 31 December and 7a.m. on 1 January

Double Rate 1

Extras that may be Charged

- 20p** For each shopping carrier bag conveyed outside of the passenger compartment of the carriage, subject to maximum charge of 60p per passenger.
- 20p** For each article of luggage (excluding carrier bags) conveyed outside of the passenger compartment of the carriage (no maximum charge)
- 20p** For each person in excess of one (2 children under the age of 10 shall be regarded as one person and children under the age of 3 shall not be reckoned but each must occupy a seat).
- £2.40** Booking charge for a hiring involving a separate journey to pick up hirer.
- £100** Soiling of the carriage leaving it unfit for immediate subsequent hiring unless cleaned.

The carriage of assistance dogs is compulsory and free of charge.

Maximum Hackney Carriage Fares from 8th April 2013



Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Section 65

MID SUSSEX
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Tariff 1-	Applies to all hirings except those mentioned in Tariffs 2 and 3
Initial distance not more than 309 metres (338 yards) or a combination of distance and time, or part thereof.	£2.80p
For the next 155 metres (170 yards, or part thereof)	20p
Waiting time for each period of 40 seconds	20p

Tariff 2-	Applies to all hirings begun between 12 midnight and 6am on weekdays and 12 midnight and 8.30am on Sundays, after 8pm on 24 and 31 December, all day 26 December, Good Friday, Easter Sunday and public and bank holidays, and all Sundays which are followed by a bank holiday in lieu.
Initial distance not more than 309 metres (338 yards) or a combination of distance and time, or part thereof.	£4.20p
For the next 155 metres (170 yards, or part thereof)	30p
Waiting time for each period of 40 seconds	30p

Tariff 3 -	Applies to hirings from 00.01 hours on December 25 until midnight December 25
Initial distance not more than 309 metres (338 yards) or a combination of distance and time, or part thereof.	£5.60p
For the next 155 metres (170 yards, or part thereof)	40p
Waiting time for each period of 40 seconds	40p

Additional Charges		
Subject to the licensed capacity of the vehicle, the driver, when carrying five passengers or more is allowed to charge Tariff 2 when Tariff 1 charges apply, and Tariff 3 charges at times when Tariff 2 charges apply.		
Soiling charge	£40	
Booking Fee (Optional / only when advance booking made)	50p	
Emergency Fuel Surcharge		
To be applied to each £5 of indicated metered fare, or part thereof, during periods when pump prices reach		
A	£1.90 - £2.24p per litre	20p
B	£2.25 - £2.49p per litre	40p
C	£2.50 per litre	60p

Any enquiries, please contact:

Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 1SS

01444 458166
www.midsussex.gov.uk/taxi

MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL – HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

For journeys within the District of Mole Valley. From 2nd April 2012. The Tariff below is the maximum

DISTANCE	
First 1645 yards (1504.18 metres) or part thereof	£3.90
Each subsequent 165 yards (150.87 metres) or part thereof	.20p
WAITING TIME	
Each 45 seconds or part thereof	.25p

Hiring commencing within the following times:	
23:00hrs (11pm) – 07:30am Monday to Saturday	1½ x normal fare
23:00hrs (11pm) Saturday to 07:30am Monday	1½ x normal fare
All Bank Holidays (Except Christmas & New Year)	1½ x normal fare
18:00hrs (6pm) Christmas Eve to Midnight Christmas Day	2 x normal fare
18:00hrs (6pm) New Year's Eve to Midnight New Year's Day	2 x normal fare

EXTRA CHARGES	
Each passenger in excess of two	.35p
Booking Charge for hiring involving a separate journey to pick up hirer	£1.00
THE FARE ON THE METER, WHEN IN USE, MUST BE CLEARLY VISIBLE TO THE PASSENGER AT ALL TIMES	
The table of fares shall not apply to Hackney Carriages hired in pursuance of a written contract with the local education authority for the conveyance of children to and from school.	
N.B. If the journey takes the cab outside the Mole Valley district the driver must still charge in accordance with the above scale unless he/she has agreed otherwise with the hirer BEFORE the journey started.	
THE DRIVER OF THIS VEHICLE IS REQUIRED TO WEAR AN IDENTITY / LICENCE BADGE	
ANY COMPLAINTS should be reported to Mole Valley District Council, Pippbrook, Dorking, Surrey, quoting if possible the Vehicle Plate No. and / or the Driver's name.	

Appendix D

Tariff 1

Hackney Carriage Tariff Proposed increase for 2013-2014 comparisons

Proposed Tariff	<u>Crawley</u>	<u>Mole Valley</u>	<u>R&B</u>	<u>Horsham</u>	<u>Mid Sussex</u>
1 Mile	£4.00	£3.90	£3.60	£4.80	£3.80
2 Mile	£6.20	£6.10	£5.80	£8.60	£7.60
3 Mile	£8.40	£8.30	£8.00	£12.60	£11.60
4 Mile	£10.40	£10.30	£10.20	£16.40	£15.40
5 Mile	£12.60	£12.50	£12.40	£20.20	£19.20
10 Mile	£23.00	£23.10	£23.20	£39.20	£38.20

Tariff 2

Hackney Carriage Tariff Proposed increase for 2013-2014 comparisons

Proposed Tariff	<u>Crawley</u>	<u>Mole Valley</u>	<u>R&B</u>	<u>Horsham</u>	<u>Mid Sussex</u>
1 Mile	£6.00	£5.78	£4.00	£7.20	£5.70
2 Mile	£9.60	£9.15	£6.40	£12.90	£11.40
3 Mile	£13.20	£12.45	£8.80	£18.90	£17.40
4 Mile	£16.50	£15.45	£11.20	£24.60	£23.10
5 Mile	£20.10	£18.75	£13.60	£30.30	£28.20
10 Mile	£37.20	£34.65	£25.60	£58.80	£57.30

Tariff 3

Hackney Carriage Tariff Proposed increase for 2013-2014 comparisons

Proposed Tariff	<u>Crawley</u>	<u>Mole Valley</u>	<u>R&B</u>	<u>Horsham</u>	<u>Mid Sussex</u>
1 Mile	£8.00	£7.80	£7.20	£9.60	£7.60
2 Mile	£12.80	£12.20	£11.60	£17.20	£15.20
3 Mile	£17.60	£16.60	£16.00	£25.20	£23.20
4 Mile	£22.00	£20.60	£20.40	£32.80	£30.80
5 Mile	£26.80	£25.00	£24.80	£40.40	£38.40
10 Mile	£49.60	£46.20	£46.40	£78.40	£76.40