



Northumberland

County Council

COMMITTEE : **LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

DATE: 26 APRIL 2023

Hackney Carriage Tariff Review 2023

Report of Philip Soderquest, Director of Housing and Public Protection

Cabinet Member: Cllr. Colin Horncastle – Portfolio Holder Community Services

Purpose of report

To update Members on consultation undertaken following the agreement of the Committee on the 15 February to increase the Hackney Carriage tariff of fares, and in doing so, determine whether there are grounds to adopt a different approach to that which was agreed and consulted upon.

Recommendations

Members note the contents of the report and

1. Determine, following consideration of the consultation responses, whether to approve the proposed revised hackney carriage tariff or agree a modified tariff.
2. Set a date, in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Section 65, for the tariff to come into force.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the Living and Enjoying priorities included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2023-2026.

Key issues

The Council is responsible for setting the hackney carriage tariff, which represents, when the vehicle is operated within its licensing zone, the maximum tariff that may be charged.

The tariffs were reviewed in 2022 where it was agreed on a 5% increase with an agreement to review after 12 months.

The current set of tariffs is made up of 6 separate tariffs. 3 tariffs relate to vehicle for up to 4 passengers, the remaining 3 tariffs cover larger vehicles carrying 5 to 8 passengers.

The Licensing and Regulatory Committee on 15th February 2023 determined to increase the tariff by approximately 5% and authorised the licensing section to consult with the licensed trade and publish the required public notices.

Responses/comments are attached at **Appendix A**.

There have been 3 responses received via email and 22 via the online forms

Background

Under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Section 65, the Council has the power to determine the charges that may be made in respect of journeys undertaken in a hackney carriage.

There are 4 elements in relation to the setting of a tariff: Timing of the tariffs, flag fall, intervals at which fare increases and extra charges.

Following Local Government reorganisation in 2009 hackney carriage licensing was split into 6 zones covering the 6 former districts. Separate tariffs were in place for these 6 zones until a review of the tariffs in 2018.

In 2018 an extensive review of the tariffs was conducted. It merged all 6 sets of tariffs into one set which covered all of Northumberland. Due to the way the tariffs had been previously formulated it meant that for some zones there was a significant increase while for others it was modest.

The tariffs were reviewed again in 2022 where it was agreed on a 5% increase with an agreement to review after 12 months

The Licensing and Regulatory Committee on 15th February 2023 determined to increase the tariff by approximately 5% and authorised the licensing section to consult with the licensed trade and publish the required public notices.

Public notices were published in The Northumberland Gazette, The Berwick Advertiser and The News Post Leader, specifying the proposed tariff and the date the proposed tariff increase was to come into effect should no representations be received (28th March 2023). Any representations received must be considered, and a new date set, within 2 months of the original date, for the implementation of the tariff with or without modifications

Points made by the trade, seem to vary, some state there should be an increase, whilst others state it should remain the same. Several comments have been made in relation to the tariffs for larger 8-seater vehicles, and that the increase should be higher for these vehicles.

- “Yardage should increase but cost to remain the same”
- “Increase should be higher”
- “Due to cost of living, there should be no increase”
- “No adequate price distinction between 4 seat and 8-seater vehicles”
- “5% increase is not sufficient”
- “Cost of fees also went up, so no gain for the driver”
- “Change in the font size as customers can't read it”
- “We are struggling after the first increase, so a second increase won't help”
- “I do not agree with the soiling charge”
- “the increase should be higher, unless there will be a review every year”
- “the small increase does not cover the cost of re-setting the meter”

The current set of tariffs is attached at **Appendix B.**

Implications

Policy	
Finance and value for money	
Legal	Legal requirement to advertise any amendment to the tariff.
Procurement	
Human Resources	
Property	
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	
Risk Assessment	
Crime & Disorder	
Customer Consideration	Before making changes to tariffs consultation with those affected should take place.
Carbon reduction	
Health and Wellbeing	
Wards	All

Background papers:

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	
Relevant Executive Director	
Chief Executive	
Portfolio Holder(s)	Colin Horncastle

Author and Contact Details

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Appendix A

Trade responses received

Appendix B

Current Hackney Carriage Tariff