

**TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF INCREASE IN
HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES 2007/2008 THE TOWN
POLICE CLAUSES ACT 1847 AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT
1976**

**REPORT BY: Head of Environmental Health and
Trading Standards**

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To consider the proposed annual price review for Hackney Carriage Fares in Herefordshire.

Legislation

2. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows the local authority to fix the rates/fares within the Authority as well for time as distance and all other charges in connection with the fare of a vehicle or with the arrangements for the hire of a vehicle, means of a table of fares.
3. If objections are made or if objections are not withdrawn the Local Authority shall set a further date not later than two months after the date specified for the increase in fares to take affect.

Background

4. The current taxi fares were reviewed and increased in October 2006 (appendix 1).
5. Proposals for an increase in charges for taxi fares were first published in the Hereford Times on 11 October 2007 there were two weeks of consultation ending on 26 October 2007. These fares are normally reviewed annually. The proposals were based on consideration of the annual inflation indices and submissions from the Chair of Herefordshire Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Association.
6. It is proposed the fare increase should take affect from 5 November 2007.
7. We are still in the consultation period and will know if receive any comments at the end of the two weeks.

Considerations

7. The proposed table of fares is shown in Appendix 2 and existing fares in Appendix 1.
8. The period over which the price indices are measured is July 2006 to July 2007. The changes are as follows

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Suzanne Laughland Licensing Manager 01432361675.

- The RPIX 2005 increase from August 2005 is 3% (excluding mortgages).
 - Increase in fuel prices
8. As shown in the proposed table of charges (Appendix 2) changes have been made to the ongoing travelling distances but not to the starting fare.
 9. Appendix 3 Summarises the effect of the fee increase on journeys based on miles.
 10. The proposed fare increase is generally in line with overall inflation as measured by the RPI in order to keep taxis “affordable” and hence the changes will support the Herefordshire Plan ambition of an integrated transport system for Herefordshire.
 10. The proposed fares are sufficient to maintain the current standard of Hackney Carriage service in Herefordshire.
 11. Earlier this year the taxi licensing fees have been reviewed for the first time in three years and were increased in April. The fee review looked at the taxi licence fees covering the cost of providing the service. Appendix 5 gives the taxi licence fees.

Risk Management

12. If the fares are not increased this could affect the number of taxis available for the public to use. With increasing costs to the taxi trade and a finite number of customers they will need to make their businesses viable in order to continue providing the service. Therefore if the fees are not set at an appropriate level the Herefordshire ambition to provide an integrated transport system for Herefordshire may not be achieved.
13. There are no nighttime buses and with the constant reduction of the daytime bus service within Herefordshire the only means of transport for some is by taxi. The taxis were not available some people would be unable to travel to the shopping centres within Herefordshire.
14. Likewise if the fares are set too high, the public in particular the low-income households who are unable to afford their own car may be disadvantaged. Therefore the Herefordshire ambition to tackle poverty and isolation may not be achieved.

Consultees

15. With Herefordshire Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Association. The Steering Groups recommendations Appendix 3.
16. All Operators were consulted and were asked to pass on the consultation to the drivers and vehicle owners, If there is any feed back the matters will be brought to the Committee for their consideration.
17. Members of the General Public were consulted through a public notice placed in the Hereford Times. The closing date for consultation is 26 October 2007.

Options

- To agree in principal to the fare increase providing there are no objections to the fare increases and delegating the implementation of the fare increase on 5th November

2007 to the Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards. If any objections had been received the matter would be brought back to the Regulatory Committee.

- To reject the proposed fares and keep them at the present level.
- To set an alternative fare increase.

Documents:

Appendix 1 Current taxi fares

Appendix 2 Proposed taxi fares

Appendix 3 Summarises the effect of the fee increase on journeys based on miles

Appendix 4 Other Neighbouring Authority Tariffs

Appendix 5 Taxi and Private Hire fees

APPENDIX 1

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL
PROPOSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

2006/2007

Tariff One	Inclusive of VAT
For each journey not exceeding 1025 metres	£2.40p
For each subsequent 95 metres or part thereof	£0.10p
Waiting time for each period of 28 seconds or part thereof	£0.10p
Tariff Two	
For hiring's begun between 11.00pm and 8.00am and Public holidays other than Christmas and New Year	150% of Tariff one
Tariff Three	
For hiring's begun between 11.00pm on 24 th December to 8.00am on 27 th December and 11.00pm on 31 st December to 8.00am on 2 nd January	200% of Tariff One

EXTRA CHARGES

For each package other than hand luggage	£0.20p
For each bicycle or perambulator	£0.20p
For each person in excess of two	£0.50p
For cleaning a vehicle where it has been fouled	£50.00p
By passenger.	

APPENDIX 2

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
 Suzanne Laughland Licensing Manager 01432361675.

**COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL
HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES**

2005/2006

Tariff One	Inclusive of VAT
For each journey not exceeding 965 metres	£2.40p
For each subsequent 90 metres or part thereof	£0.10p
Waiting time for each period of 28 seconds or part thereof	£0.10p
 Tariff Two	
For hiring's begun between 11.00pm and 8.00am and Public holidays other than Christmas and New Year	150% of Tariff one
 Tariff Three	
For hiring's begun between 11.00pm on 24 th December to 8.00am on 27 th December and 11.00pm on 31 st December to 8.00am on 2 nd January	200% of Tariff One

EXTRA CHARGES

For each package other than hand luggage	£0.20p
For each bicycle or perambulator	£0.20p
For each person in excess of two	£0.50p
For cleaning a vehicle where it has been fouled	£50.00p

Payable by passenger.



APPENDIX 3

EXAMPLE OF PROPOSED TAXI FARE INCREASES BY MILES

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Suzanne Laughland Licensing Manager 01432361675.

Tariff 1

Miles	Current Fee £	Proposed Fee £	% Increase
1	3.00	3.10	3
2	4.70	4.90	3
3	6.40	6.70	3
4	8.10	8.50	3
5	9.80	10.30	4
10	19.20	20.30	5
20	36.10	38.10	5
40	70.00	73.80	5

Tariff 2 - For hiring's begun between 11.00pm and 8.00am and public 150% of Tariff One
Holidays other than Christmas and New Year

Miles	Current Fee £	Proposed Fee £	% Increase
1	4.50	4.65	3
2	7.05	7.35	3
3	9.60	10.05	3
4	12.15	12.75	3
5	14.70	15.45	4
10	28.80	30.75	5
20	54.15	57.15	5
40	105.00	110.70	5

Tariff 3 - For hiring's begun between 11.00pm on 24th December to 8.00am 200% of Tariff One
On 27th December and 11.00pm on 31st December to 8.00am On 2nd January

Miles	Current Fee £	Proposed Fee £	% Increase
1	6.00	6.20	3
2	9.40	9.80	3
3	12.80	13.40	3
4	16.20	17.00	3
5	19.60	20.60	4
10	38.40	40.40	5
20	72.20	76.20	5
40	140.00	147.60	5

Extra Charges

For each package other than hand luggage	£0.20
For each bicycle or perambulator	£0.20
For each person in excess of two	£0.50

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For cleaning a vehicle where it has been fouled by passengers £50.00

N.B The law allows the taxi firm to charge less than metered fare if they wish to do so but it is illegal to charge more than the metered fare.

APPENDIX 4

Comparison of other Neighbouring Authority Tariffs

District Councils	Tariff One 1 Mile	Tariff One 2 Miles	Tariff Two 1 Mile	Tariff Two 2 Miles
Monmouth	£2.90	£4.40	£3.30	£5.00
Cheltenham	£3.40	£5.00	£4.25	£6.25
Cardiff	£3.30	£4.90	£4.30	£5.90
South Gloucester	£3.70	£5.30	£4.80	£6.40
Hereford	£3.10	£4.80	£4.65	£7.20
Malvern	£3.30	£5.20	£4.95	£7.60
Worcester	£2.90	£4.50	£4.20	£6.40

Appendix 5

Taxi and Private Hire fees

Taxi Licensing		£	
Hackney Carriage Vehicle or Private Hire Vehicle			
New / renewal/transfer plate		252.00	
Change of proprietor of vehicle		65.00	
Change of vehicle on plate		252.00	
Application to licence a spare vehicle		252.00	
Replacement of vehicle plate		35.00	
Private Hire Operator			
		No CRB	With CRB
	1 vehicle	80.00	116.00
	2-5 vehicles	120.00	156.00
	Over 5 vehicles	180.00	216.00
Dual Driver Badge			
New		198.00	
Renewal with CRB and medical		151.00	
Renewal with CRB only		121.00	
Renewal with medical only		115.00	
Renewal without CRB or medical		85.00	
Annual self declaration		45.00	
Replacement of driver badge		10.50	
Knowledge test		12.00	
CRB		36.00	
Vehicle test Rotherwas		42.00	
Doctors examination	Cost payable by examination		
Doctors paper medical referral		30.00	
Application that varies from standard conditions	(Plus New application fee)	150.00	