

5 TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF INCREASE IN HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES 2005/2006 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 If objections are made or if objections are not withdrawn the Local Authority shall set a further date not later than two months after the date specified for the increase in fares to take affect.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 November 2004 (appendix 1).
5. Proposals for an increase in charges for taxi fares were first published in the Hereford Times on 20 October 2005 there will be two weeks of consultation ending on 3 November 2005. These fares are normally reviewed annually and are due to be implemented in November 2005. The proposals were based on consideration of the annual inflation indices and submissions from the Herefordshire Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Association.
6. It is proposed the fare increase should take affect from 7 November 2005

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 2004 to July 2005. The changes are as follows
 - The RPIX 2005 increase from July 2004 is 2.3% (excluding mortgages).
 - Increase in fuel prices
9. As shown in the proposed table of charges (Appendix 2) changes have been made to the initial distance travelled and the initial starting fare for the journey within the Hackney Carriage. Also changes have been made to the ongoing travelling distances.
10. The proposed fares give increases as follows:
 - 6% Increase on the starting fare.
 - 2.8% increase on the first mile travelled (this includes the starting fare).
 - 3.3% Increase on a two-mile journey.
 - 4.3% Increase on the cost of a running mile (excluding the starting fare).
11. Appendix 3 provides for examples of the fare increases in terms of miles travelled and tariff.
12. Appendix 4 table of surrounding authorities fares.
13. 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.
14. The proposed fares are sufficient to maintain the current standard of Hackney Carriage service in Herefordshire as, having no public feedback to the contrary, is believed to be acceptable.

Risk Management

15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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

18. With Herefordshire Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Association.
19. Members of the General Public were consulted through a public notice placed in the Hereford Times on 20 October 2005. The closing date for consultation is Thursday 3 November 2005. Also a public notice was displayed at the taxi office.

Options

- To agree in principal to the fare increase, providing there are no public objections during the consultation period ending 3 November 2005; delegating the implementation of the fare increase on 7 November 2005 to the Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards. If any objections are received the matter should 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 Provides for examples of the fare increases in terms of miles travelled and tariff

Appendix 4 Table of surrounding Authorities fares

APPENDIX 1

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL
HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

2004/2005

Tariff One	Inclusive of VAT
For each journey not exceeding 975 metres	£2.20p
For each subsequent 105 metres or part thereof	£0.10p
Waiting time for each period of 29 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

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL
PROPOSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

2005/2006

Tariff One	Inclusive of VAT
For each journey not exceeding 1130 metres	£2.40p
For each subsequent 100 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.	