

**TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF INCREASE IN
HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES 2006/2007 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 If objections are made or if objections are not withdrawn the Local Authority shall set a further date not later than two months after the date specified for the increase in fares to take affect.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 2005 (appendix 1).
5. Proposals for an increase in charges for taxi fares were first published in the Hereford Times on 28th September 2006 there were two weeks of consultation ending on 19th October 2006. These fares are normally reviewed annually. 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 6 November 2006.

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 2005 to July 2006. The changes are as follows
 - The RPIX 2005 increase from August 2005 is 3.2% (excluding mortgages).

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

- Increase in fuel prices
9. 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.
 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.
 11. 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

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 Dual Drivers, Vehicle proprietors and Operators were consulted, the results of the consultation appear at Appendix 4.
17. Members of the General Public were consulted through a public notice placed in the Hereford Times. The closing date for consultation is 19th October 2006.

Options

- To agree in principal to the fare increase, as there were no public objections during the consultation period; delegating the implementation of the fare increase on 6th November 2006 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:

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

Appendix 1 Current taxi fares

Appendix 2 Proposed taxi fares

Appendix 3 Proposal from Taxi and Private Hire Steering Group

Appendix 4 Results of consultation received from the Trade

APPENDIX 1

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL
HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

2005/2006

Tariff One	Inclusive of VAT
For each journey not exceeding 1100 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.	

APPENDIX 2

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 3Proposal received from the Taxi and Private Hire Steering Group

There are a number of factors to consider. The Retail Price Index is around 3%. Recent fuel increases have put a litre of diesel over the pound mark for the first time. Effectively we have seen a 10% rise on a litre of fuel during the past year. It should also be noted that 12% of all taxi income is spent on fuel costs. With the 10% rise in fuel costs, this has effectively put a 1.2% inflationary rise on total expenditure. That figure together with the retail price index would put us near the 4% mark. Below is an example of a sliding scale for the tariff increase.

2005/2006 Existing Fare**2006/2007 Proposed Fare**

Metres	By 100	Existing Fare		Metres	By 95	Existing Fare
1100		£2.40		1025		£2.40
1200		£2.50		1120		£2.50
1300		£2.60		1215		£2.60
1400		£2.70		1310		£2.70
1500		£2.80		1405		£2.80
1600		£2.90		1500		£2.90
1700		£3.00		1595		£3.00
1800		£3.10		1690		£3.10
1900		£3.20		1785		£3.20
2000		£3.30		1880		£3.30
2100		£3.40		1975		£3.40
2200		£3.50		2070		£3.50
2300		£3.60		2165		£3.60
2400		£3.70		2260		£3.70
2500		£3.80		2355		£3.80
2600		£3.90		2450		£3.90
2700		£4.00		2545		£4.00
2800		£4.10		2640		£4.10
2900		£4.20		2735		£4.20
3000		£4.30		2830		£4.30
3100		£4.40		2925		£4.40
3200		£4.50		3020		£4.50
3300		£4.60		3115		£4.60
3400		£4.0		3210		£4.70
				3303		£4.80
				3400		£4.90

Initially the starting distance is decreased from 1100 metres to 1025 metres to keep the start up rate at £2.40 and have also reduced the amount of metres for each corresponding ten pence from 100 metres to 95 metres in order the get the sliding scale so that at the end of the table it reflects the true percentage rise.

APPENDIX 4

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

Results of Consultation with the Trade.

Accept Steering Group Proposal	117
Reject Fare Increase and leave the tariff at its present level for another year	13
Alternative Increase	5
No response	1

Fare Increases 2006