

## **REGULATORY COMMITTEE – 15 DECEMBER 2008**

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES**

#### **OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE STRUCTURE**

##### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request Members to consider objections received with regard to proposed variations to the present table of hackney carriage fares.

##### **2.0 DESCRIPTION OF DECISION (RECOMMENDATIONS)**

- 2.1 Members are recommended to set the date of 16 December 2008 for the commencement of the proposed table of hackney carriage fares with or without modifications after considering objections that have been received.

##### **3.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 On 10 November 2008 Members agreed to vary the current table of hackney carriage fares to those listed in paragraphs 3.2 to 3.4 below.

- 3.2 The proposed Tariff One is:

TARIFF ONE - This charge applies to journeys undertaken Monday – Saturday 7.00 am to 11.00 pm with the exception of Public and Bank Holidays and the Christmas / New Year period.

If the distance does not exceed 155.45m (170 yds), for the whole distance £2.40.

If the distance exceeds 155.45m (170 yds), for the first 155.45m (170 yds) £2.40, and each subsequent 256.03m (280 yds) or uncompleted part thereof £0.20.

- 3.3 The proposed Tariff Two is:

TARIFF TWO - This charge applies to journeys undertaken between 11.00 pm and 7.00 am each day and all day Sunday with the exception of Public and Bank Holidays and the Christmas/New Year period.

If the distance does not exceed 155.45m (170 yds), for the whole distance £2.80.

If the distance exceeds 155.45m (170 yds), for the first 155.45m (170 yds) £2.80, and each subsequent 201.17m (220 yds) or uncompleted part thereof £0.20.

- 3.4 The proposed Tariff Three is:

TARIFF THREE - This charge applies to journeys undertaken from 6.00 pm on 24 December to 7.00 am on 27 December and 6.00 pm on 31 December to 7.00 am on 2

January and all day on other Public and Bank Holidays.

If the distance does not exceed 155.45m (170 yds), for the whole distance £3.80.

If the distance exceeds 155.45m (170 yds), for the first 155.45m (170 yds) £3.80,

and each subsequent 201.17m (220 yds) or uncompleted part thereof £0.20.

**3.5** In compliance with section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (the 'Act'), the proposed variations were advertised in the local press on 25 November 2008. Objections were able to be made no later than 11 December 2008.

**3.6** The Act requires the Council to consider any objections to the proposed variations that were duly made and not withdrawn.

#### **4.0 CURRENT POSITION.**

**4.1** An objection has been received from the Independent Hackney Carriage of Sunderland. For Members' information, a copy of their objection is attached as Appendix 1.

**4.2** Objections have also been received from 58 hackney carriage drivers currently licensed by this Council. For Members' information, each objection is identical to that attached as Appendix 2. A list identifying the names and addresses of the objectors will be circulated at the Committee.

**4.3** Members are required to consider the objections and then to set a date, no later than two months after 11 December 2008, upon which the proposed table of fares shall come into force with or without modifications.

**4.4** Members are entitled to uphold their original decision to vary the table of fares to those listed at paragraphs 3.2 to 3.4 above, or, in the light of the objections received, to make modifications to the proposed table which could, should they be so minded, include the retention of the present table of fares.

#### **5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

**5.1** None submitted.

#### **6.0 RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS/CONSULTATION**

**6.1** The only relevant considerations are the objections received.

#### **7.0 GLOSSARY**

**7.1** None.

#### **8.0 LIST OF APPENDICES**

**8.1** Appendix 1 - Letter from Independent Hackney Carriage of Sunderland.  
Appendix 2 - Letters from 58 licensed hackney carriage drivers.

**9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9.1 Copy of Public Notice.

# Appendix 1

# IHCOS



## **Independent Hackney Carriage of Sunderland**

**As representatives for a large portion of the Hackney Carriage trade we have been advised by a large majority of our members to object to the proposed tariff increase.**

**In our original application we informed the council that a rise on the first and second tariff would most definitely damage the trade. That is why we could not agree with S.H.C.O.A's (Station Taxis) proposal. To our own members and many other hackney carriage operators in the city it was suicidal. Our opinion has not changed and a poll carried out in the Sunderland Echo confirmed what we already knew: that threequarters of the public are against this increase.**

**S.H.C.O.A (Station Taxis) reasoning that there may be a fuel price increase, which is only an educated guess. They may well prove to be correct, but at this moment in time fuel prices are down to approximately what they were in March 2008, when we accepted a tariff increase to cover those costs.**

**In the present economic climate we can not ask for an increase on first and second tariff because we think there may be an increase in fuel costs. We can however, consider our customers and the people of this city and freeze the tariffs.**

**It appears only one company wants this rise and surely that company does not speak for everyone in this trade. We believe you should listen to the concerns of the rest of the trade and of the general public.**

**A tariff freeze until the economic climate shows an upturn, is the preferred option of our organisation, we also believe that is the only sensible option at the moment.**

**If you ignore this and other objections you will have a mass exodus of taxi drivers from the trade as it will no longer be viable to operate.**

**Yours**

# Appendix 2

**As a hackney carriage driver in Sunderland, I wish to object to the proposed tariff increase placed in the Sunderland Echo on Tuesday 25th November 2008.**

**I am one of the many people in the trade who believes that this increase will be detrimental to the trade and cause major problems.**

**Our regular customers are already informing us they will not use our services if this increase goes ahead. These are people we have to listen to. We can not afford to ignore them.**

**I would much rather have a tariff freeze at this time rather than damage the trade by an unnecessary rise.**

**Signed**

**Dated**

*28/11/08*

