

LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE – 28 FEBRUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOODS

SECTION 65 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLEANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 - PROPOSED VARIATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES AND OTHER CHARGES

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Committee to consider a request received from the Sunderland Hackney Carriage Operators' Association, ("SHCOA"), for increases to the present scale of hackney carriage fares and other charges in connection with the hire of vehicles, or with the arrangements for the hire of a vehicle.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF DECISION (RECOMMENDATIONS)

- 2.1 Under Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 1976, ("the Act"), the Council has the power to set hackney carriage fares and other charges. Subject to the prescribed statutory advertising procedure, the Committee is requested to consider whether, or not to agree the following requests that have been submitted by SHCOA, :-
- i) An increase in the Tariff One charges as set out in Paragraph 4.2;
 - ii) An increase in the Tariff Two charges as set out in Paragraph 4.3;
 - iii) An increase in the Tariff Three charges as set out in Paragraph 4.4; and
 - iv) Amendments made to charges for waiting time and other extra charges as set out in Paragraph 4.5.

3.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 3.1 From time to time the Committee is asked by the hackney carriage trade to consider increasing the scale of fares that the Council allows hackney carriage drivers to charge by way of a maximum. When such a request is made this engages Section 65 of the Act and the associated advertising requirements. The last increase agreed by the former Regulatory Committee came into force in January, 2020. A copy of the current Hackney Carriage Fares Tariff is shown in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 On 26 January, 2022 a letter was received from Mr Trevor Hines on behalf of SHCOA stating that following consultation with representatives of the Independent Operators in Sunderland and Washington, it had been agreed by the three groups to make a request that consideration be given to certain proposed amendments to the Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff. A copy of the letter submitted by Mr Hines is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.3 Should the Committee be minded to alter the current fare structure and other charges, then under Section 65 of the Act any such proposal must be published in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district and a period of not less than 14 days from the date of first publication must be allowed for objections to be made to the variations that are proposed. Any objections received must be given full consideration by the Committee before the revised fares and other charges can

come into operation. If no objections are received, or if all objections so made are withdrawn, the revised fares and other charges will come into effect upon expiry of the objection period, or the date of withdrawal of the last objection, if more than one.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION.

4.1 Listed below at Paragraphs 4.2 to 4.4 are the Hackney Carriage Fares Tariffs currently charged and those requested by SHCOA. The information set out in Paragraph 4.5 relates to other charges.

4.2 **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.

The current Tariff One is :

If the distance does not exceed 137.16m (150 yds), for the whole distance : £2.60

If the distance exceeds 137.16m (150 yds), for the first 137.16m (150 yds) : £2.60

and each subsequent 196.6m (215 yds) or uncompleted part thereof : £0.20

The Tariff One requested by SHCOA is :

If the distance does not exceed 100.58m (110 yds), for the whole distance : £2.80

If the distance exceeds 100.58m (110 yds), for the first 100.58m (110 yds) : £2.80

and each subsequent 192.02m (210 yds), or uncompleted part thereof : £0.20

4.3 **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.

The current Tariff Two is :

If the distance does not exceed 137.16m (150 yds), for the whole distance : £3.00

If the distance exceeds 137.16m (150 yds), for the first 137.16m (150 yds) : £3.00

and each subsequent 150.88m (165 yds), or uncompleted part thereof : £0.20

The Tariff Two requested by SHCOA is :

If the distance does not exceed 100.58m (110 yds), for the whole distance : £3.20

If the distance exceeds 100.58m (110 yds), for the first 100.58m (110 yds) : £3.20

and each subsequent 146.30m (160 yds), or uncompleted part thereof : £0.20

- 4.4 **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.

The current Tariff Three is :

If the distance does not exceed 137.16m (150 yds), for the whole distance : £4.00

If the distance exceeds 137.16m (150 yds), for the first 137.16m (150 yds) : £4.00

and each subsequent 150.88m (165 yds) or uncompleted part thereof : £0.20

The Tariff Three requested by SHCOA is :

If the distance does not exceed 100.58m (110 yds), for the whole distance : £4.20

If the distance exceeds 100.58m (110 yds), for the first 100.58m (110 yds) : £4.20

and each subsequent 146.30m (160 yds), or uncompleted part thereof : £0.20

4.5 **OTHER CHARGES :**

FARES FOR TIME

Negotiated at the time of hiring (no change)

WAITING TIME

SHCOA have proposed that the initial free waiting time of 126 seconds be removed, with each period of 60 seconds remaining the same as at present : £0.20

EXTRA CHARGES

For each adult in excess of two in number : £0.20 (no change)

For each article of luggage, (wheelchairs and pushchairs free of charge) :
£0.20 (currently £0.10)

Each dog, or other animal, (except accompanied assistance dogs) :
£0.20 (currently £0.10)

Summoning of a vehicle where the hirer has been informed of the charge :
£0.60 (no change)

Fouling of the vehicle (maximum charge) : £60.00 (currently £30.00)

5.0 **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 5.1 None submitted.

6.0 RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS/CONSULTATION

6.1 The effects of the tariffs requested by SHCOA are shown in the below Tables, :-

Tariff One :

Journey distance (Miles)	Current Cost £s	Cost under requested tariff £s	Percentage Increase %
1	4.20	4.40	4.8%
2	5.80	6.20	6.9%
2.5	6.60	7.00	6.1%
3	7.40	7.80	5.4%
4	9.20	9.60	4.3%
5	10.80	11.20	3.7%

The average percentage increase of the above is 5.2%.

Tariff Two :

Journey distance (Miles)	Current Cost £s	Cost under requested tariff £s	Percentage Increase %
1	5.00	5.40	8%
2	7.20	7.60	5.6%
2.5	8.20	8.60	4.9%
3	9.40	9.80	4.3%
4	11.40	12.00	5.3%
5	13.60	14.20	4.4%

The average percentage increase of the above is 5.4%.

Tariff Three :

Journey distance (Miles)	Current Cost £s	Cost under requested tariff £s	Percentage Increase %
1	6.00	6.40	6.7%
2	8.20	8.60	4.9%
2.5	9.20	9.60	4.3%
3	10.40	10.80	3.8%
4	12.40	13.00	4.8%
5	14.60	15.20	4.1%

The average percentage increase of the above is 4.8%.

- 6.2 The rate of inflation as at 16 February, 2022 using the Consumer Price Index was 4.9%
- 6.3 Traditionally, the journey distance used for comparison purposes in reports of this nature is 2.5 miles. To that end, attached at Appendix 3 is a Table showing the costs of a 2.5 mile journey on our current tariffs, those requested and those of certain neighbouring councils who are Licensing Authorities.
- 6.4 The Council is entitled to prescribe only the maximum fares that may be charged by hackney carriages. Any individual hackney carriage driver is free to charge less if they so choose.

7.0 GLOSSARY

- 7.1 SHCOA - Sunderland Hackney Carriage Operators' Association.

8.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Appendix 1 – Copy of Current Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff ;
2. Appendix 2 – Request from Sunderland Hackney Carriage Operators' Association (SHCOA); and
3. Appendix 3 – Comparisons with other Neighbouring Councils' Current Hackney Carriage Fare Scales.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 None.