



**Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976  
Proposed Increase in the Taxi Tariff**

**Report by the Executive Head of Housing, Health and Community Safety**

**1.0 Summary**

1.1 Members are requested to consider an application received from an Adur Hackney Carriage proprietor for an increase in the Hackney Carriage Tariff.

**2.0 Background**

2.1 Adur District Council has powers under Section 65, of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to set a tariff for Hackney Carriages (Taxis).

2.2 On 15 September 2008 the last such increase was authorised by this committee. A copy of the current tariff structure is attached. (**Appendix A**)

2.3 On 15 March 2011 a tariff increase request was agreed among the trade at their local meeting and was put before this committee. The increase requested was refused by members.

2.4 At subsequent trade meetings the tariff was discussed further. It was agreed by those attending these meetings that the trade would present various proposals that would be put to ballot.

2.5 A ballot was conducted in early 2012 with the assistance of the Licensing Team. Out of 96 ballot papers issued 38 votes were cast. The result showed

- 20 votes were received for the tariff to remain unchanged
- 2 votes were received for proposal 1 **Appendix B**
- 16 votes were received for proposal 2 **Appendix C**

2.8 As a result no fare increase was sought at the time.

2.9 The Hackney Carriage fare is a maximum fare, the Hackney Carriage driver has the option to charge below the fare displayed on the meter.

### **3.0 Proposals**

- 3.1 On 24 October 2012 an Adur Hackney Carriage Driver and Proprietor, Mr Fleming, presented an application to the licensing office for an increase to the current hackney carriage tariff. **Appendix D**
- 3.2 The proposed tariff has been checked and officers can confirm that the tariff is mathematically consistent and can be programmed into taximeters.

### **4.0 Legal**

- 4.1 The Council has powers under Section 65, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (“the Act”) to set a tariff for Hackney Carriages, (Taxis). It is important that the tariff set is consistent and unambiguous.
- 4.2 The suggested tariff must be advertised in a local paper giving the proposed variation in fares, a copy of the notice must be lodged at the Council offices, available for inspection by the public “at all reasonable hours”, and at least 14 days must be allowed after such publication for any objections.
- 4.3 If there are no objections, or any objections made are withdrawn, the new tariff may come into effect on a date which is 14 days after the date of publication, or the date of withdrawal of the last objection, whichever is later.
- 4.4 If there are objections, the Council must consider them unless previously withdrawn. The new tariff, if imposed by members after such consideration, will then come into effect on a date set by the Committee, which is not more than two months after the first specified day.

### **5.0 Financial implications**

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council.
- 5.2 Members should bear in mind that the vast majority of taxi drivers are small sole trader businesses, whose income is indirectly regulated by the Council.
- 5.3 The tariff set is a maximum tariff, and drivers are not obliged to charge the full amount shown on the meter, in every case.

### **6.0 Recommendation**

- 6.1 Members are requested to determine the request from the Adur licensed proprietor and driver for a new Tariff Scheme and give reasons for their decision.

**Paul Spedding**  
**Executive Head of Housing, Health and Community Safety**

## **Local Government Act 1972**

### **Background Papers:**

- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

### **Appendices:**

- Appendix A - Current ADC tariff
- Appendix B - Proposal 1
- Appendix C - Proposal 2
- Appendix D – Mr Fleming's new Tariff proposal

### **Contact Officer:**

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01273 63146  
[teresa.bowley@adur-worthing.gov.uk](mailto:teresa.bowley@adur-worthing.gov.uk)

## **Schedule of other matters**

### **1.0 Council Priority**

1.1 Licensing of taxi and private hire drivers is directly related to public safety issues.

### **2.0 Specific Action Plans**

2.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **3.0 Sustainability Issues**

3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **4.0 Equality Issues**

4.1 Dealt with in the body of the report.

### **5.0 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

5.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **6.0 Human Rights Issues**

6.1 All applicants have the right to expect that their application will be properly and fairly considered.

### **7.0 Reputation**

7.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **8.0 Consultations**

8.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

### **9.0 Risk Assessment**

9.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **10.0 Health & Safety Issues**

10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **11.0 Procurement Strategy**

11.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **12.0 Partnership Working**

12.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

**ADUR DISTRICT COUNCIL  
HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES**

The table of fares made by the Council under Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, provides that the proprietor or driver of a Hackney Carriage shall be entitled to demand for the hire of the carriage the rate or fare prescribed by the following table. The fare payable shall be by way of a combination of time and distance automatically calculated and displayed by the Taximeter fitted to the carriage. The taximeter must be switched on at the start of each journey.

<b><u>Tariff (1)</u></b>	<b>Mileage</b>
	For the first 549 meters (600 yards) or 2 minutes 44 seconds or Un-completed part thereof.....£2.80p
	For each subsequent 161 meters (176 yards) or 48 seconds or Un-completed part thereof.....20p

**Authorised Surcharges**

<b><u>Tariff (2)</u></b>	For hirings begun between 2200Hrs and 0600Hrs on any day, all day Sunday and Bank Holidays including Good Friday (Except where Tariff 3 applies)....., + £1.00 p
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<b><u>Tariff (3)</u></b>	For hirings begun between 2200Hrs on 24 <sup>th</sup> December to 0600Hrs on 27 <sup>th</sup> December ..... + 100% Extra of Tariff 1
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For hirings begun between 2200Hrs on 31<sup>st</sup> December to 1000Hrs  
on 1<sup>st</sup> January..... + 100% Extra of Tariff

**Extra Charges**

More than four passengers carried in vehicles.....	Relevant Tariff
licensed to carry 5-8 passengers	+ 50% of Tariff 1

**SOILING OR FOULING CHARGE.....£60.00**

Where a Hackney Carriage is hired and the taximeter is used to automatically calculate the Fare payable for the hiring, the proprietor or driver shall not be entitled to demand or take a fare greater than that recorded on the face of the taximeter.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> Day of September 2008

Any complaints regarding the taxi or taxi driver should be reported to:-

**The Licensing Officer  
Adur District Council  
Ham Road  
Shoreham-by-Sea  
West Sussex  
BN43 6PR  
Telephone 01273-263071 (Noting the Licence Number of taxi and driver)**

# Appendix B PROPOSAL 1

19<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

Ref: Adur Hackney Carriage Tariffs.

Dear Sir,

Please accept this letter as a formal request for a review of Hackney Carriage Tariffs.

You are reminded that the last tariff increase occurred in 2007 some 5 years ago.

A steady decline in profitability has followed since then any many full time drivers and operators have left the trade. The current new input of licensed individuals is very different in their attitude to the business, its rules and regulations and particularly customer service. A simple survey of customers will reveal the extent of the changes from the customer point of view. From the trade's point of view overcharging is rife. Meter abuse is at the highest I have ever known. Self regulation has broken down due to the huge increase in vehicles, drivers and yet another change in the Hackney Carriage plate numbering system. The hours a full time driver has to work is now not only excessive and therefore dangerous but has led to allowing unlicensed drivers to use the vehicles at a fee for the hours the owners are forced to rest. In short the council has produced a nightmare scenario which it cannot afford to police and will end in a public abuse that will show up the sad state of affairs and I hope who is to blame. I personally wash my hands of it and refuse to take part in the spurious policy that employees should determine the income and costs of employers when they are not qualified to do so, especially when the Law says that responsibility for that belongs to the Council's appropriate Committee.

A suggested new tariff for 2012 to commence ASAP is as follows:-

Flag Fare                      £3.80 for 760 meters.  
    30p per 100 meters.

Over 4 – 8 seats £50% of the above fares. Bank Holidays rates and Christmas % 's as current..  
Waiting 30p per 1.80 minutes.

- The only alterations are to tariff 1
- The hiring fee is increased from £2.80 to £3.30 on the existing yardage
- The subsequent yardage is altered from 160 yds to 149.8 yds.
- The waiting time gives the customer 16 more seconds on the hiring fee and one more second on subsequent uncompleted parts.- a technical necessity.
- Because Tariff 1 is altered multiseater charges will be adjusted accordingly

# Appendix C PROPOSAL 2

## TARIFF (1)

For the first 549 meters (600.0 yds) or 3 minutes  
or uncompleted part thereof.....£3.30

For each subsequent 137 meters (149.8 yds) or 45 seconds or  
uncompleted part thereof.....20p

## TARIFF (2)

For hirings begun between 22.00hrs and 06.00hrs on any day  
all day Sunday and Bank Holidays including Good Friday,  
Boxing Day and New Years Day (except when Tariff 3  
applies).....+£1.00

## TARIFF (3)

For hirings begun between 22.00hrs 24<sup>th</sup> December till  
06.00hrs on 27<sup>th</sup> December.....+100% of Tariff 1

For hirings begun between 22.00hrs on 31<sup>st</sup> December till  
10.00hrs on 1<sup>st</sup> January.....+100% of Tariff 1

## EXTRA CHARGES

More than FOUR passengers carried in vehicles licensed to  
carry 5-8 passengers.....Relevant Tariff +50% of Tariff 1

Solling or Fouling Charge.....£60.00

- The only alterations are to tariff 1
- The hiring fee is increased from £2.80 to £3.30 on the existing yardage
- The subsequent yardage is altered from 160 yds to 149.8 yds.
- The waiting time gives the customer 16 more seconds on the hiring fee and one more second on subsequent uncompleted parts.- a technical necessity.
- Because Tariff 1 is altered multiseater charges will be adjusted accordingly



## Appendix D

Adur Hackney Carriage Tariff Proposal - 24th October 2012 marked 'A'.

The following changes only to the existing table of fares:

### Tariff (1) Mileage

For the first 549 meters (600 yds or 3 minutes or uncompleted part thereof.....£3.30p

For each subsequent 137 meters (149.8 yds) or 45 seconds or uncompleted part thereof.....20p