

**LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
16 JUNE 2011**

**HACKNEY CARRIAGE TARIFF
Director of Environment, Culture and Communities**

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1 The Committee are required to consider a representation made by Mrs Robson, Managing Director of JJM Taxis, objecting to the proposed increase in Hackney Carriage Tariff agreed to be put forward for consultation by the Committee at its meeting on 24 March 2011.

2 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 That the Committee:

- (a) **considers the objection received to the proposed increase in the Tariff and**
- (b) **sets the Tariff for those charges to be made by Hackney Carriages and other vehicle with meters licensed within Bracknell Forest from Thursday 23 June 2011.**

3 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 3.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of the report.

Borough Treasurer

- 3.2 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 3.3 There are no direct consequences for any particular group and no direct community safety issues.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 3.4 There are no issues to consider.

4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1. At its meeting on 24 March 2011 the Committee received a report which recommended that the Hackney Carriage Tariff be increased as follows:

- for the first 700 yards : £3.00
- for each subsequent 200 yards : 20p
- waiting time of 45 seconds : 20p

The present tariff is:

- for the first 738 yards : £3.00
- for each subsequent 240 yards : 20p
- waiting time of 57 seconds : 20p

A copy of the report for the 24 March 2011 together with Annexes is produced as Appendix 1 to this report.

- 4.2. The Committee agreed that the proposed tariff be advertised in accordance with the legislation and that any objections received be considered by the Committee prior to implementation of any change. The proposed changes to the tariff were advertised in the Bracknell News on 31 March 2011 and in addition a notice was placed in the reception area at Time Square. Attached to the report as Appendix 2 is a copy of the notice as it was published within the Bracknell News and displayed at Time Square.
- 4.3. An objection to the increase was received by e-mail on 31 March 2011 from Jane Robson, Managing Director of JJM Taxis and Zulu Cars Ltd. This e-mail is attached to the report as Appendix 3. In addition the Council also received a letter signed by 51 Hackney Carriage owners supporting the tariff increase. This is attached as Appendix 4.
- 4.4. Members will hear from Jane Robson and a representative from the Bracknell Licensed Taxi Forum and will need to consider the evidence presented for and against the level of the increase. Members may also wish to consider the wider implications, if any, upon residents, visitors, business and the Hackney Carriage Trade itself should the tariff increase to the level proposed, stay at its present level or increase by a lesser amount.
- 4.5. The Private Hire and Taxi Monthly magazine collects data on the fares charged by Hackney Carriages operating in different local authority areas. In the May 2011 edition Bracknell Forest is placed as 136th in a league table of 377, based upon the cost of a 2 mile journey. Should the proposal for an increase be implemented then Bracknell Forest would rise to 31st in the table. For comparison in the table the following neighbouring authorities are placed as follows:

Local Authority	Position	Date of last increase
Reading	17	November 2008
West Berkshire	20	April 2011
Hart	36	December 2010
Wokingham	46	May 2010
Slough	69	July 2010
Surrey Heath	114	May 2008
Windsor & Maidenhead	249	April 2006

- 4.6. For further comparison the following data ordered by the 2 mile charge shows different charges for distances travelled and the start up (flag) rate:

Local Authority	Flag	1 mile	2 mile	5 mile
Reading	2.20	4.00	6.20	13.20
West Berkshire	2.50	4.20	6.20	12.30
Wokingham	3.00	4.00	6.00	12.60
Proposed Bracknell Forest	3.00	4.20	6.00	11.20
Hart	2.60	3.80	6.00	12.00
Slough	3.00	5.00	5.80	10.40
Surrey Heath	3.60	3.60	5.60	11.60
Existing Bracknell Forest	3.00	4.00	5.40	9.80
Windsor & Maidenhead	2.60	3.40	5.00	9.80

- 4.7. Members are not restricted by the decision made on 24 March 2011 and are entitled to reach the same or a different conclusion based upon the evidence presented at the meeting. The decision made by the Committee today will be effective from a date determined by the Committee. Should charges be agreed, the date of 23 June 2011 is recommended by officers to allow sufficient time for any necessary changes to be made to the taxi meters and for officers to make arrangements to conduct checks on the accuracy of the meters.

Background Papers

Private Hire and Taxi Monthly – May 2011

Contact for further information

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