

Report to Licensing Committee

24 February 2022

Subject:	Hackney Carriage Fare Review
Director:	Director of Borough Economy Ms Alice Davey
Contact Officer:	Operations Manager, Tracy Hubball Tracy_hubball@sandwell.gov.uk Licensing Supervisor, Mrs Fiona Gee Fiona_gee@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations







- 1.1 That the Licensing Committee consider the proposal to increase hackney carriage fares as submitted by hackney carriage vehicle licence holders and the Director of Borough Economy share this committees' views/comments on this proposal with Cabinet at their meeting on 13th April 2022.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 On 16th December 2021, a request to increase hackney carriage fares, which are set by the Council, was received and accepted from thirteen hackney carriage vehicle licence holders due to increased fuel costs and the rising cost of living. The last time that the fares were increased was November 2013.
- 2.2 The Local Government (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 1976, under Section 65, requires that when a request is received, that a notice is published in a local newspaper inviting objections and, in the event that no objections are received, the change in fares comes into effect on a date specified in the notice – usually the day after the closing date for objections.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	Best start in life for children and young people
	People live well and age well
	Strong resilient communities
	Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods
	A strong and inclusive economy
	A connected and accessible Sandwell Ensuring that resident are confident in using the vehicles and drivers licensed by Sandwell MBC to travel both inside and outside the Borough safely.

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 requires that when an application is made to vary the hackney carriage table of fares that it is published in a local paper giving at least 14 days for objections to be submitted. The notice must contain the details of the proposed change, details of where the notice can be viewed free of charge and the date that the changes will come into effect in the event that no objections are received.
- 4.2 In the event that any objections are received, and they are not withdrawn, a further report will be considered by Cabinet on whether or not the proposal as submitted be modified in light of any objections received. Whether the decision is reached by Cabinet to adopt the fare table as originally proposed, or they take the decision to modify, the table of fares must come into effect within two months of the date given in the public notice should there have been no objections.
- 4.3 Below is the current fare card together with the proposed increase:



	Current Charge	Proposed Increase
Mileage tariff 1 (0600 to 2200 hours)		
For the first mile (or part thereof)	£4.00	£5.00
For each subsequent 110 yards (or part thereof)	£0.10	£0.12
Or for each subsequent mile thereafter	£1.60	£1.92
Waiting time (per hour)	£16.00	No change
Mileage tariff 2 (2200 to 0600 hours)		
For the first mile (or part thereof)	£4.80	£5.80
For each subsequent 110 yards (or part thereof)	£0.15	£0.18
Or for each subsequent mile thereafter	£2.40	£2.88
Waiting time (per hour)	£24.00	No change
Extra Charges		
For hiring on Sundays and Bank Holidays between 0600 and 2200 hours	£0.45	£0.50
For hiring from 1800 hours on Christmas Eve, throughout Christmas Day and Boxing Day	Double tariff 1 charge	No change
For hiring between the hours of 1800 hours on New Years Eve and 0600 hours on New Year's Day	Double tariff 1 charge	No change
For every article of luggage conveyed outside the passenger compartment of the carriage after the first article of luggage	£0.10	No change
For each person over the age of 7 years in excess of 4	New Charge request from trade	Tariff 2 to be applied
Soilage Fee	£50	No change

4.4 Private Hire and Taxi monthly publish a league table which details how our charges rank across the country compared to other local authorities. At the time that the request was received, Sandwell was ranked at 267



out of a possible 358 in the country. This table is based on the cost of a two mile journey. In the event that this request were to be approved, as of the end of January 2022, it is estimated that with the two mile fare rising to £6.92, this would place Sandwell at 37 on the table. Should the committee wish to view the table in full, please visit <https://www.phtm.co.uk/taxi-fares-league-tables> The table below shows the highest fares as at January 2022. The colour coding on the table for the two mile fare indicates when that fee was last increased with the key to the colours being found at the top of the table.

Filter by last rise:

2022 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 2011 2010 2008

POS	COUNCIL	2 ML. FARE	+ / -
1	LONDON (HEATHROW)	£11.40	●
2	LUTON AIRPORT	£9.70	●
3	EPSOM & EWELL	£8.60	●
4	LONDON	£8.60	●
5	WATFORD (X)	£8.40	●
6	UTTLESFORD	£8.30	●
7	READING	£8.00	●
8	GUILDFORD	£7.60	●
9	KERRIER	£7.60	●
10	OXFORD CITY	£7.60	●
11	JERSEY	£7.43	●
12	BRIGHTON & HOVE	£7.40	●
13	CHELTHENHAM	£7.40	●
14	MAIDSTONE	£7.40	●
15	MID SUSSEX	£7.40	●
16	CARRICK	£7.30	●
17	GUERNSEY	£7.30	↑ £0.20
18	BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET	£7.20	●
19	BCP	£7.20	●
20	TORRIDGE	£7.20	●
21	TUNBRIDGE WELLS	£7.20	●
22	YORK	£7.20	●
23	CHELMSFORD	£7.10	●
24	DARTFORD	£7.10	●
25	DOVER	£7.10	●
26	MOLE VALLEY	£7.10	●
27	PENWITH	£7.10	●
28	SEVENOAKS	£7.06	●
29	EAST LOTHIAN	£7.00	●
30	EDINBURGH	£7.00	●
31	HARROGATE	£7.00	●
32	HERTSMERE	£7.00	●
33	STROUD	£7.00	●
34	TONBRIDGE & MALLING	£7.00	●
35	WELWYN HATFIELD	£7.00	●
36	WILTSHIRE	£7.00	●



5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 By virtue of Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 1976 there are no alternative options other than modifying the table of fares to the amounts requested in the event that no objections are received to the proposal.

6 Implications

<p>Resources:</p>	<p>There will be a cost to the Council of publishing the notice in the public notices section of the local newspaper and for reprinting, laminating and posting the new fare card to all holders of hackney carriage vehicle licences. There will also be a cost to the trade for having their meters calibrated with the new rates should they be adopted.</p>
<p>Legal and Governance:</p>	<p>The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act states that on receipt of a request, it should be treated as an Executive function and not a Council function and that the proposed table of fares is published in the local newspaper giving at least 14 days for objections. A copy of the notice has to be available at the local council offices for at least 14 days from the date of publication of the public notice and this notice must be available to view free of charge at any reasonable time. If no objections are received, then the fares take effect on the specified date (usually the day after the closing date for objections). If objections are received and then withdrawn, the fares take effect on the specified date or date of withdrawal of last objection if later. If the objections are not withdrawn, then the Local Authority must consider the objections. The Local Authority can modify the table of fares in light of the objections. In the event that they chose not to then the fare table as originally proposed comes into effect on a new date which must be within two months of the original date. In the event that they do modify the fare table, the revised fare table comes into effect on a new date</p>



	which again must be within two months of the original date.
Risk:	There is a risk to the Council's reputation in the event that permission is not given to consult on this request as there is a legal requirement that the Council consult and that they consider any representations received.
Equality:	All Sandwell residents and users of hackney carriage vehicles will be affected if the increase is approved. An equality impact assessment has been completed and it confirms that there are no impacts that are specific to any or all protected characteristics.
Health and Wellbeing:	There will be an increase in costs to those using hackney carriage vehicles at a time when the most vulnerable are also facing increased living and fuel costs.
Social Value	The request has been made by the licence holders due to the increased cost in fuel and associated increases in the cost of living to enable them to continue to work and offer a transport service.

7. Appendices

None

8. Background Papers

Current Hackney Carriage Fare Card

Request from 13 hackney carriage vehicle licence holders to increase fares

Button on Taxis: Licensing Law and Practice

Private Hire and Taxi Monthly for other local authority fare charges

