

## Licensing and Public Safety Committee

Tuesday, 6th September, 2022, 6.00 pm

Shield Room, Civic Centre, West Paddock, Leyland, PR25 1DH

### Agenda

**6 Request For Taxi Tariff Increase**

(Pages 259 - 270)

The correct report of the Director of Planning and Property is now attached.

Gary Hall  
Chief Executive

Electronic agendas sent to Members of the Licensing and Public Safety Committee Councillors Jacky Alty (Chair), Renee Blow (Vice-Chair), Jane Bell, Julie Buttery, Derek Forrest, Chris Lomax, Keith Martin, Jacqui Mort, Peter Mullineaux, Alan Ogilvie, John Rainsbury and Paul Wharton-Hardman

The minutes of this meeting will be available on the internet at [www.southribble.gov.uk](http://www.southribble.gov.uk)

### Forthcoming Meetings

6.00 pm Tuesday, 6 December 2022 - Shield Room, Civic Centre, West Paddock, Leyland, PR25 1DH

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Planning and Development	Licensing and Public Safety Committee	Tuesday, 6 September 2022

## Tariff Increase

Is this report confidential?	No
Is this decision key?	Yes
Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	<b>Significant impact on 2 or more council wards</b>

## Purpose of the Report

1. To inform members of the Licensing and Public Safety Committee, about a request from the taxi drivers of South Ribble for a tariff increase.

## Recommendations

2. To note the contents of the report.
3. To consider the proposed request for an increase in the Taxi tariff set by this licensing authority
4. To accept or reject the proposed increase
5. If members are to agree to the proposed increase, the licensing section to undertake a consultation exercise with stakeholders on the proposed changes to the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares.
6. To agree to receive a report on the outcome of the consultation exercise at a future meeting only if representations are received.

## Corporate priorities

7. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:
- 8.

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
<b>A fair local economy that works for everyone</b>	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

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## Background to the report

9. Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 permits Licensing Authorities to set the fares tariff for its licenced Hackney carriages (taxis).
10. The total cost of using a taxi is referred to as a 'fare' and is calculated on an electronic meter installed and displayed within the vehicle.
11. The council sets the maximum fares that taxi drivers can charge its passengers. The main charge is for the distance i.e. the further you go, the higher the fare, with a startup fee that is set before the vehicle commences its journey.
12. There are extra charges for delays, when there are higher numbers of passengers and costs are also multiplied during evenings, weekends and public holidays, depending on timings within the tariff card.
13. Hackney Carriage drivers must always have the tariff card on display so that that passengers know what the charges are, before the journey commences.
14. All the separate charges are shown in a 'tariff'. The driver of a taxi cannot charge more than the tariff but can charge less if they wish.
15. To fix the schedule of fares, a written request is normally submitted to the council, usually by the taxi trade.
16. The council is obliged under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, to advertise for a period of 28 days any variation to an approved table of fares. Any objections to the proposal must be considered before new tariffs are brought into force.
17. Once a fare increase has been approved, the council is required to ensure all licensed hackney carriage vehicles have meters which show the new tariffs, and to ensure that meters are checked and sealed, and that there are clear fare cards for each vehicle. This is to ensure that members of the public are not overcharged for their journey, and that there is a clear explanation about the fare change or increase.
18. As per S65(3) of the act states, if no representations are received after a period of consultation then the proposed table of fares comes into operation on the date of the expiration of the consultation period.
19. This meaning the consultation would not come back to members at a later date for a decision unless representations to the increase are received.
20. S65 of the act, states the following,

### *65 Fixing of fares for hackney carriages.*

*(1)A district council may fix the rates or fares within the district as well for time as distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the arrangements for the hire of a vehicle, to be paid in respect of the hire of hackney carriages by means of a table (hereafter in this section referred to as a "table of fares") made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section.*

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*(2)(a) When a district council make or vary a table of fares they shall publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district a notice setting out the table of fares or the variation thereof and specifying the period, which shall not be less than fourteen days from the date of the first publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which objections to the table of fares or variation can be made.*

*(b) A copy of the notice referred to in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall for the period of fourteen days from the date of the first publication thereof be deposited at the offices of the council which published the notice, and shall at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment.*

*(3) If no objection to a table of fares or variation is duly made within the period specified in the notice referred to in subsection (2) of this section, or if all objections so made are withdrawn, the table of fares or variation shall come into operation on the date of the expiration of the period specified in the notice or the date of withdrawal of the objection or, if more than one, of the last objection, whichever date is the later.*

*(4) If objection is duly made as aforesaid and is not withdrawn, the district council shall set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date, on which the table of fares shall come into force with or without modifications as decided by them after consideration of the objections.*

*(5) A table of fares made or varied under this section shall have effect for the purposes of the Act of 1847 as if it were included in hackney carriage byelaws made thereunder.*

*(6) On the coming into operation of a table of fares made by a council under this section for the district, any hackney carriage byelaws fixing the rates and fares or any table of fares previously made under this section for the district, as the case may be, shall cease to have effect.*

## **Request to Increase the Tariff of charges**

21. Nationally, South Ribble BC currently sit 198 least expensive out 359 councils recorded in the table of most expensive fares within the country. These figures are based on a cost of a 2-mile journey on the lowest tariff.

22. A link to the current nation table of fares can be found by following link - <https://www.phtm.co.uk/newspaper/taxi-fares-league-tables>

23. A comparison of other local authorities.

- 1) Fylde £6.70
- 2) Blackburn £6.30
- 3) **SOUTH RIBBLE £6.30**
- 4) Chorley £6.20

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- 5) Preston £6.00
- 6) Blackpool £6.00
- 7) Lancaster £6.00
- 8) Wyre £5.80
- 9) Ribble valley £5.30
- 10) Bolton £5.20

24. A written request has been received from “The Hackney Drivers Association Ltd” for an increase in the tariff of charges set by this authority.
25. This request can be found in the form of a letter from The Hackney Drivers Association Ltd attached to the report as appendix A.
26. The council did increase the fare card on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, but since then various factors have changed and the written requests asks the committee to take into account economic factors such as the sudden significant increase in fuel since the last taxi tariff increase and continuous increases in the cost of living.
27. The current tariff card can be found attached to the report as Appendix B
28. The letter requests the following increases to its tariff,

<b>Current Tariff Charges</b>	<b>New Proposed Charge</b>
Tariff 1  For the first two tenths of a mile – £2.70 For each succeeding tenth of a mile - £0.20	Tariff 1  For the first two tenths of a mile – £3.00 For each succeeding tenth of a mile - £0.25
Tariff 2  For the first two tenths of a mile - £3.50 For each succeeding tenth of a mile - £0.25	Tariff 2  For the first two tenths of a mile - £3.50 For each succeeding tenth of a mile - £0.30
Tariff 3  For the first two tenths of a mile - £4.50 For each succeeding tenth of a mile - £0.35	Tariff 3  For the first two tenths of a mile - £4.50 For each succeeding tenth of a mile - £0.40

29. All other charges within the current tariff card to remain the same.

## **Climate change and air quality**

30. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

## **Equality and diversity**

31. South Ribble Borough Council is responsible for the licensing of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles, drivers and operators.

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32. This policy applies to all regardless of gender, age, disability, religious belief, race or ethnic minority or sexual orientation. No overall impacts have been identified across the equality strands within this report.
33. The increase is a request from the trade itself, any increase would include all drivers.

## **Risk**

34. This has been addressed in the body of the report.

## **Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer**

35. There are no direct financial implications of this report to the Council. The fees sit outside the Council's fees and charges income as they do not come to the authority.

## **Comments of the Monitoring Officer**

36. As set out in the body of the report, Section 65(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, sets out that a district council may fix the rates or fares within the district as well for time as distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the arrangements for the hire of the vehicle, to be paid in respect of the hire of hackney carriages by means of a table of fares made or varied in accordance with provisions of this section.
37. Section 65(2a) of the Act states that when a district council make or vary a table of fares they shall publish, in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district, a notice setting out the table of fares, or variation thereof, and specifying the period, which shall not be less than 14 days from the date of the first publication of the notice, within which, and the manner in which, objections to the table of fares or variations can be made. There is also a requirement under section 65(2b) of the same Act for the same notice to be displayed at the council offices.
38. If no objection to a table of fares or variation is duly made within the period specified in the notice, or if all objections so made are withdrawn, the table of fares or variation shall come into operation on the date of the expiration of the period specified in the notice or the date of withdrawal of the objection or, if more than one, of the last objection, whichever date is the later.
39. If objection is duly made as aforesaid and is not withdrawn, the district council shall set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date, on which the table of fares shall come into force with or without modifications as decided by them after consideration of the objections.
40. On the coming into operation of a table of fares made by a council under this section for the district, any Hackney Carriage table of fares previously made under this section for the district shall cease to have effect.

**Background documents** -There are no background papers to this report

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## Appendices

Appendix A – Written request from The Hackney Drivers Association Ltd

Appendix B – Current Table of Fares

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Chris Ward (Licensing Manager)	christopher.ward@southribble.gov.uk	01772 625330	23/08/2022



# The Hackney Drivers Association Ltd

Goodison Road  
Liverpool  
L4 4EP

TEL: 01204 371 928  
Or 0151 523 4396  
Mob 07436070340

E: [bbha@btinternet.com](mailto:bbha@btinternet.com)

W: [thdald.com](http://thdald.com)

To Members of the  
Licensing Committee  
South Ribble,

Your ref:  
Our ref:  
Please ask for Charles or Sam Oakes  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Members of the Licensing Committee

**Ref: Formal Request for a fare increase for Hackney Carriages in South Ribble.**

We Hackney Drivers Association Ltd have been instructed by our members to formally apply for a Fare Increase for Hackney Carriages in South Ribble who are responding to significant economic factors the trade thinks need addressing by requesting the consideration by the South Ribble Council of a Fare Increase to be approved by the council in South Ribble due to the significant increase in Fuel over since the start of 2022, along with other cost rises we understand that there as been a fare review in 2022, however, the Taxi trade in South Ribble is still well down at 172 in the Hackney Fare Tables, we would all so like to build in a review ever year so the trade may move with the times and not fall back behind.

The fuel prices table below provides information on the fuel price changes in the northwest and nationally since January 2022. We got this data from the AA website's monthly price report.

The AA source the data from Experian Catalist and take average mid-month prices from respective regions

DIESEL PRICES		North West Average Price pence/litre	UK Average Price Pence/litre
June	2022	196.1	196.4
May	2022	177.9	180.4
April	2022	175.0	175.9
March	2022	174.3	173.8
February	2022	151.3	151.6
January	2022	148.7	148.0

<b>PETROL PRICES</b>	<b>North West Average Price pence/litre</b>	<b>UK Average Price Pence/litre</b>
June 2022	188.4	188.8
May 2022	166.4	166.9
April 2022	161.9	162.2
March 2022	163.8	163.8
February 2022	147.9	148.1
January 2022	145.4	145.7

We understand that this request is coming soon after the other one in February 2022 but prices have continued to rise not only for fuel but for food, Gas, and Electric, and with electricity set to go up again in October 2022.

And therefore the association agrees with the trade that the need for this should be made now

**New Hackney Carriage Table of Fares from July 2022**

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Applies to all journeys within the Borough Boundary, and to journeys outside the Borough Boundary unless agreed otherwise between driver and hirer, prior to the hiring being commenced. Fares detailed below are the maximum fares that may be charged.

No other charges may be made.

**Tariff 1**

For hiring commenced between the hours 6.00am and 00.00 (midnight) Monday to Sunday:

- For the first two tenths of a mile - £3.00
- For each succeeding tenth of a mile - £0.25

## **Tariff 2**

**For hiring commenced between the hours 00.00 (midnight) and 6.00am, Statutory Holidays and Bank Holidays (excluding Christmas and New Year), or when carrying 5 or more passengers on Tariff 1 rates\*:**

- **For the first two tenths a mile - £3.50**
- **For each succeeding tenth of a mile thereafter - £0.30**

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## **Tariff 3**

**For hiring commenced between the hours 6.00pm Christmas Eve and 6.00am 27th December and between 6.00pm New Year's Eve and 6.00am 2nd January or when carrying 5 or more passengers on Tariff 2 rates\*:**

- **For the first two tenths of a mile - £4.50**
  - **For each succeeding tenth of a mile thereafter - £0.40**
  - **Extra per person when actually carrying 5 or more passengers on Tariff 3 rates\* - £0.40**
  - **Waiting time on each tariff for each period of 30 seconds or uncompleted thereof - £0.10**
- Extras (optional)**
- **For each passenger in excess of 1 for each whole journey - £ 0.20**
  - **For each article of luggage - £ 0.20**
  - **For each dog carried (except guide, hearing or other assistance dogs) - £ 1.00**
  - **For the soiling of the vehicle so as to necessitate valeting; not exceeding - £100.00**

**\* Driver must make the hirer aware at the start of the journey.**

## **Complaints or Compliments**

**Details of complaints or compliments should be forwarded to: Licensing Unit, South Ribble Borough Council, Civic Centre, West Paddock, Leyland, PR25 1DH.**

**Remember to note the licence plate number and ask for a receipt for the journey.**

**Regards  
Charles Oakes  
The Hackney Drivers Association.**

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Applies to **ALL** journeys within the Borough Boundary, and to journeys outside the Borough Boundary unless agreed otherwise between driver and hirer, **PRIOR** to the hiring being commenced. Fares detailed below are the **MAXIMUM** fares that may be charged. No other charges may be made.

**TARIFF 1**

**For hiring commenced between the hours 6.00am and 00.00 (midnight) Monday to Sunday:**

- For the first two tenths of a mile - **£2.70**
- For each succeeding tenth of a mile - **£0.20**

**TARIFF 2**

**For hiring commenced between the hours 00.00 (midnight) and 6.00am, Statutory Holidays and Bank Holidays (excluding Christmas and New Year), or when carrying 5 or more passengers on Tariff 1 rates\*:**

- For the first two tenths a mile - **£3.50**
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**For hiring commenced between the hours 6.00pm Christmas Eve and 6.00am 27<sup>th</sup> December and between 6.00pm New Year's Eve and 6.00am 2<sup>nd</sup> January or when carrying 5 or more passengers on Tariff 2 rates\*:**

- For the first two tenths of a mile - **£4.50**
- For each succeeding tenth of a mile thereafter - **£0.35**

Extra per person when actually carrying 5 or more passengers on Tariff 3 rates\* - **£0.40**

Waiting time on each tariff for each period of **20** seconds or uncompleted thereof - **£0.10**

**EXTRAS (OPTIONAL)**

- For each passenger in excess of 1 for each whole journey - **£ 0.20**
- For each article of luggage - **£ 0.20**
- For each dog carried (except guide, hearing or other assistance dogs) - **£ 1.00**
- For the soiling of the vehicle so as to necessitate valeting; not exceeding - **£100.00**

\* Driver must make the hirer aware at the **START** of the journey.

**COMPLAINTS OR COMPLIMENTS**

Details of complaints or compliments should be forwarded to: Licensing Unit, South Ribble Borough Council, Civic Centre, West Paddock, Leyland, PR25 1DH. Remember to note the licence plate number and ask for a receipt for the journey.

**(From: 01/04/2022)**

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