

CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND REGULATION COMMITTEE – 24th NOVEMBER 2011

Background Papers, if any, are specified at the end of the Report

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 HACKNEY CARRIAGE – TARIFF EXTRA CHARGES

Contact Officer: Ben Coakley 01494 732060 and Martin Holt 01494 732055

RECOMMENDATION

That Members consider:

A) If a change to the ‘extras charges section’ of the fares is appropriate at this time.

If it is considered appropriate;

B) Recommend to the Head of Health and Housing a change to the ‘extra charges section’ and agree that Officers consult with the taxi meter companies.

Matter for Consideration

- 1 The table of fares were last considered on the **2nd June 2011**. Following extensive consideration, it was concluded that:
 - the Licensing and Regulation Committee recommend to the Head of Health and Housing **that there be no change to the Table of Fares.**
 - the Licensing and Regulation Committee recommend to the Head of Health and Housing **that a new MPV tariff is not introduced.**
- 2 It was noted that 12 months should elapse before they are considered again. However, it was requested that options for amending the extra charges be brought to a future committee.
- 3 This report therefore deals only with the potential options for increasing the ‘extra charges’ section of the Hackney Carriages Fares as requested by the Licensing and Regulation Committee.
- 4 Any charge that is varied or made in excess of £25 will required publication in the local press, comments to be received and a final decision made by this committee.

Background & Information:

- 5 Although the main table of fares has been amended with time, the current adopted extra charge options have remained unchanged since 2000.
- 6 The current adopted Chiltern tariff contains the following 'extra charge' options:

ITEM	CHARGE
Each passenger in excess of one	£0.15
Up to 3 shopping bags or light hand luggage carried free of charge. Each additional item of luggage carried (excluding the carriage of aids for older and/or disabled persons)	£0.25
Each dog (Not seeing or hearing dogs)	£0.25
Soiling Charge	£50
Toll or Congestion Charge	As Required

A comparison with the other Bucks Authorities is provided below:

ITEM	CDC	AVDC	SBDC	WDC
Each passenger in excess of one	£0.15	For each person in excess of 4 persons - £1.20	£0.15	Use Tariff 2 for 5 or more passengers
Up to 3 shopping bags or light hand luggage carried free of charge. Each additional item of luggage carried (excluding the carriage of aids for older and/or disabled persons)	£0.25	£0.10 for each in excess of 2	£0.25 each article of luggage	NA
Each dog (Not seeing or hearing dogs)	£0.25	NA	£0.50	NA
Soiling Charge	£50	NA	£50	£50
Toll or Congestion Charge	As Required	NA	NA	NA
Fuel Surcharge	NA	NA	NA	£0.40
For each hire from Railway Premises:	NA	NA	NA	£0.40
Hiring commencing away from Hackney Carriage Rank/Stand:	NA	NA	NA	£1.00

- 7 The taximeters used in the Chiltern District are calendar controlled and are restricted to Tariff 1 to 4. These tariffs are currently used for the Day rate, Evening, Bank Holiday Evening and Sundays. There is limited scope to add additional charges, however if desired this option is available through a single selector button.
- 8 As with any change to a meter, the need to maintain a consistent unit remains. This is because the required extra amount is obtained by pressing a single button a set number of times to reach the required amount. Therefore for example, to charge £0.15 extra the button needs to be pressed 3 times.
- 9 The additional items rate is currently in multiples of 0.5p. Therefore for ease of use, any proposals for changes to current amounts should retain this or perhaps a 0.10p multiplier.
- 10 The Chiltern District Drivers Association (CDDA) as part of the informal meeting held in September provided a general proposal document and the following suggestions were provided relating to the extra charges review.
- Increase Soiling Charge to £80
 - A change to the per passenger tariff. The price per additional person over 4 to equal £3.00

(The full handout has already been printed as minutes to the 12 October 2011 meeting).

These two suggested elements are therefore considered further:

A) Soiling Charge:

ITEM	EXISTING	Option 1	Option 2	CDDA Suggestion
Soiling Charge	£50	£55	£60	£80

- 11 The above options 1 and 2 represent possible options with the CDDA suggestion in the last column. If this element is significantly increased, it may lead to a greater risk of conflict as passengers may be intoxicated and may be unlikely to be able to pay a large amount. There may be a temptation to cater for this by offering mobile phones or similar which can lead to potential conflict and or accusations made the following day. The Council has had experience of alleged theft of mobile phones in similar situations and it is difficult to gain the evidence to pursue a driver.

B) 'Each passenger in excess of one' Charge

- 12 In order to consider options involving extra charges for over 4 passengers, it is useful to consider the fleet mix. A breakdown of the current fleet is therefore shown below:

8 seat = 14 vehicles
 7 seat = 5 vehicles
 6 seat = 62 vehicles
 5 seat = 2 vehicles
 4 seat = 168 vehicles

- 13 Some potential options are provided as options 1 & 2, in addition to the CDDA proposal;

ITEM	EXISTING An extra...	Option 1	Option 2	CDDA Suggestion
Each passenger in excess of one	£0.15	£0.20	£0.30	Over 4 people an additional £3.00

The effect on costs per passenger from the above proposals can be seen below:

<u>Total Number of passengers</u>	EXISTING An extra...	Option 1 An extra...	Option 2 An extra...	CDDA Suggestion
1 passenger	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
2 passenger	£0.15	£0.20	£0.30	£0.00
3 passenger	£0.30	£0.40	£0.60	£0.00
4 passenger	£0.45	£0.60	£0.90	£0.00
5 passenger	£0.60	£0.80	£1.20	£3.00
6 passenger	£0.75	£1.00	£1.50	£3.00
7 passenger	£0.90	£1.20	£1.80	£3.00
8 passenger	£1.05	£1.40	£2.10	£3.00

- 14 In the above examples, an increase from £0.15 per extra passenger to £0.20 per extra passenger would result in an additional income of £0.20 per journey for a trip with 5 passengers or at a rate of £0.30 an additional £0.60 income per trip.
- 15 In determining the levels to be set it is also necessary to take into account the effect on those persons less able to afford the relevant extra charges and who may not be able to access other forms of transport. An increase in extra charges may impact for example on those who taxi share or as a community club together and share taxis.

Decision to be Made

16 Members are asked to recommend if a change to the extra charges section in fares is deemed appropriate at the current time.

-If Members feel that the current extra charges are reasonable and fair, they would continue to remain in force with no changes.

-If Members recommend a change to the extra charges, any proposed change would require consultation with the taximeter installers to ensure the correct calibration can be applied to meters

-Any change over £25 would require public advertisement and following comments further consideration by the Licensing and Regulation Committee prior to any change coming in to effect.

Background information: None
