



Council name	<b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
Name and date of Committee	<b>CABINET - 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019</b>
Report Number	<b>AGENDA ITEM (13)</b>
Subject	<b>REVIEW OF COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL'S HACKNEY CARRIAGE TABLE OF FARES</b>
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Cllr. Andrew Doherty - Cabinet Member for Waste, Flooding and Environmental Health Email: <a href="mailto:andrew.doherty@cotswold.gov.uk">andrew.doherty@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Michelle Bignell, Service Leader (Licensing and Business Support) Environmental and Regulatory Services Tel: 01285 623440 Email: <a href="mailto:michelle.bignell@publicagroup.uk">michelle.bignell@publicagroup.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	To consider the Officer recommendations regarding a proposal by Cotswold District Taxi Trade Association (CDTTA) to review the Hackney Carriage (taxi) table of fares.
Annexes	Annex A - National rankings for taxi fares in Gloucestershire Annex B - Copy of consultation letter Annex C - CDTTA proposal
Recommendation/s	<b><i>(a) Cotswold District taxi fares be increased in accordance with the recommendations shown in Annex C;</i></b> <b><i>(b) Subject to the decision in respect of recommendation (a), delegated authority be given to the Licensing Service Leader to carry out the necessary advertising requirements to comply with section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976; and</i></b> <b><i>(c) Subject to there being no substantive amendments being made following formal advertising, delegated authority be given to the Licensing Service Leader (in consultation with the Chair of the Planning and Licensing Committee) to adopt the proposed fares.</i></b>
Corporate priorities	Hackney Carriage vehicles play an active part in our community and provide vital transport links for many groups such as the elderly and tourists as well as supporting many areas such as economic growth, tourism and the night time economy.
Key Decision	No
Exempt	No

Consultees/ Consultation	All of Cotswold District Council's licensed Hackney Carriage Drivers were written to, and a consultation ran between 10 <sup>th</sup> June and 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2019
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## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 permits the council to set the maximum fares for hackney carriage vehicles (taxis) licensed by it.
- 1.2. The last hackney carriage fare review for the Cotswold District was undertaken in 2008.
- 1.3. A request from the trade was lodged for the current hackney carriage table of fares to be reviewed and this report seeks approval from Cabinet to revise the current table of fares for hackney carriage vehicles (taxis).

## 2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1. In May 2019, a petition was received that had been circulated by one of Cotswold District Council's licensed hackney carriage drivers and was supported by the necessary 10% of the trade to request a review of the current table of fares.
- 2.2. The validity of the proposal in the petition was questioned; however, the Licensing team acknowledged that the Cotswold District was one of the cheapest areas nationally in relation to taxi fares and that it had been a considerable amount of time since the last review (2008). **Annex A** shows a national comparison for Gloucestershire Councils and the dates of the last reviews.
- 2.3. The Licensing team ran a consultation with all licensed hackney carriage drivers (113) within the Cotswold District for 28 days to ask for proposals to be given as to what fares the drivers deemed fair. Several points were made that the fares needed to be:
  - Proportionate with regards to a review not having been carried out for over 10 years
  - Fair to customers of the Cotswold District area
  - Taking into account the position of the Cotswold District in relation to other Councils within Gloucestershire and nationally
- 2.4. A copy of the consultation letter is attached at **Annex B**.
- 2.5. In July 2019, the Cotswold District Taxi Trade Association (CDTTA) was resurrected. This group was made up of members of the trade and all drivers were informed of this and the proposed meetings within their consultation letter. 3 meetings were held which were attended by a small amount of drivers but were supported by more that could not attend due to work commitments.
- 2.6. During the consultation, 3 responses were received - 2 from independent sources and 1 from the CDTTA.
- 2.7. The Licensing team circulated the CDTTA proposal to the 2 independent sources (who had not attended the trade meetings) and they were fully supportive of this proposal. Their proposals were withdrawn.

- 2.8. A copy of the CDTTA proposal is attached at **Annex C**.
- 2.9. Of 113 licensed drivers, 18 supported the joint proposal. This amounts to 20% of the trade (it should be noted that not all of the 113 drivers would be able to comment on the consultation due to historic licensing - 'Dual' driver licences, which permit both hackney carriage and private hire work, were issued prior to 2018 and those who conduct solely private hire work were not permitted to feed back into the consultation as they do not work with a fitted meter and pre-book their work).
- 2.10. The current table of fares is:

TO BE DISPLAYED PROMINENTLY IN EACH HACKNEY CARRIAGE

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

**TABLE OF FARES**

The proprietor or driver of a Hackney Carriage shall be entitled to demand and take for the hire of the carriage the rate or fare prescribed by the following table, the rate or fare being calculated by distance unless the hirer expresses at the commencement of the hiring to engage by time.

Tariff 1	For the first 1540 yards <u>or part thereof</u>	£2.80
	For each subsequent 80 yards <u>or part thereof</u>	£0.10
Tariff 2	For the first 1540 yards <u>or part thereof</u>	£3.20
	For each subsequent 88 yards <u>or part thereof</u>	£0.13
Tariff 3	For the first 1540 yards <u>or part thereof</u>	£5.60
	For each subsequent 80 yards <u>or part thereof</u>	£0.20

- Tariff 1** For hirings between 7am and 10pm, Monday to Saturday.  
**Tariff 2** For hirings between 10pm and 7am Monday to Saturday, all day Sunday and all day on Bank Holidays.  
**Tariff 3** For hirings from 10pm on Christmas Eve and all hirings on Christmas Day and Boxing Day; for hirings from 6pm on New Year's Eve through to 11.59pm on New Year's Day.

<u>ADDITIONAL CHARGES</u>	<u>FOR EACH HIRING</u>
a. Waiting time applicable to all 3 tariffs	£0.25 per minute <u>or part thereof</u>
b. Extra charge for each passenger above two	£0.10
c. Extra Luggage charge:-	
For each package carried outside	£0.10
For each bicycle or perambulator	£0.10
d. Soiling charge	£50.00

CONDITIONS OF HIRING

1. The carriage of packages, bicycles, perambulators is at the driver's discretion.
2. Animals, intoxicated or troublesome persons carried at the driver's discretion.
3. Cheques will only be accepted with the prior consent of the driver and a handling charge of 50p may be levied if the total metered charge is less than £5.00.

The proposed table of fares is:

- Tariff 1** for the first 1120 yards or part thereof £3.20  
For the subsequent 640 yards or part thereof £0.80  
**Tariff 2** for the first 1120 yards or part thereof £3.70  
For the subsequent 640 yards or part thereof £0.90  
**Tariff 3** for the first 1120 yards or part thereof £6.40  
For the subsequent 640 yards or part thereof £1.60

**Additional Charges**

- Waiting to all 3 tariffs £0.30 per minute or part thereof  
Extra charge for each passenger above two £0.15  
Extra luggage charge for each package carried outside £0.15, for each bicycle or perambulator £0.30

Soiling charge valet costs (excluding loss of earnings) £60

- 2.11. The proposed table of fares would result in a 2 mile journey (the national average), on Tariff 1, of £6.20. The current rate is £5.27. Please see **Annex A** for national ranking based on this proposal.
- 2.12. It would remain the decision of the driver whether they charge the meter price or if they wish to charge less than the meter.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1. There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from this report.
- 3.2. All drivers would be required to recalibrate their meters with the new rate and submit a calibration certificate to the licensing department. This would be their cost to meet.

### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The authority for the council to fix fares for hackney carriages is given under Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. When a council makes or varies a table of fares, it must publish in one local newspaper a notice setting out the table of fares, or variations to the table, specifying the period (not less than 14 days) within which, objections to the table or variations can be made. A copy of the proposed tariff must be available at the council's offices for the public to inspect, free of charge, at all reasonable hours. If there are no objections, the table, or variation, will come into effect on the expiration date of the period specified in the notice.

### **5. RISK ASSESSMENT**

There is not a direct right of appeal against the fares set by a Local Authority; however, any party that is dissatisfied by the fares could seek a judicial review against the Council.

### **6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 6.1. Alternative resolutions to the proposed decision are:
  - a) Not to make any changes to the current fares
  - b) Make alternative changes to the current fares to those recommended by the Cotswold District Taxi Trade Association (CDTTA)

(END)