

CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

Report to:- **The Chairman and Members of The Licensing and Regulatory Panel**

Date of Meeting:- 10 October 2001

Agenda Item No:-

A.1

| Public | Operational | Delegated: Yes |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| <hr/> | | |
| Accompanying Comments and Statements | Required | Included |
| Environmental Impact Statement: | No | No |
| Corporate Management Team Comments: | No | No |
| City Treasurers Comments: | Yes | Yes |
| City Solicitor & Secretary Comments: | No | No |
| Head of Personnel Services Comments: | No | No |

Title:- **HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES REVIEW**

Report of:- **The City Treasurer**

Report reference:- **Financial Memo 2001/02 No 86**

Summary:-

The report asks the Panel to consider an application for an increase in Hackney Carriage fares. An application for an increase was last considered by the Panel on 15 August 2000 and the Panel approved a range of increases as per Appendix C with effect from 15 September 2000.

Recommendation:-

Members are requested to determine whether an increase in fare tariffs should be granted and the level of any increases. The table at paragraph 4.1.1 to 4.1.7 of the report clarifies the specific fares concerned and paragraph 4.2 sets out the possible implementation dates.

Contact Officer: **Maureen Williamson**

Ext: **7291**

Note: In compliance with section 100d of the local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: Letters from the Carlisle Taxi Association and the UK Retail Prices Index Hand Book.

CITY OF CARLISLE

To: The Chairman and Members of the
Licensing and Regulatory Panel
10 October 2001

Financial Memo
2001/02 No 86

HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES REVIEW

1. THE APPLICATION

- 1.1 It is up to the Carlisle Taxi Association to request that the Licensing and Regulatory Panel approve fare increases and a letter was received on 18th June 2001, as set out in Appendix A.

2. THE CURRENT SCALE OF CHARGES

- 2.1 The scale of charges that currently apply were approved at the meeting of the Licensing Panel on 15 August 2000. At that meeting Members approved the charges, which added 12.6% to the basic 3 miles journey and were effective from 15 September 2000. These are set out at Appendix B.

3. AREAS OF POTENTIAL INCREASES

3.1 Standing Charges

- 3.1.1 In discussions that have been held with representatives of the Carlisle Taxi Owners' Association they have referred to large increases in insurance costs, of up to 25%. Whilst the cost of diesel has fallen in the year to June 2001 there are strong indicators that world oil prices are set to escalate.
- 3.1.2 As measured by the RPI, inflation for motor insurance has increased by 6.9% from June 2000 to June 2001. In this same period inflation for fares and other travel costs increased by 3.4% with a reduction in the rate of inflation for petrol and oil costs by 3.8%.
- 3.1.3 The Carlisle Taxi Owners' Association has indicated that rather than asking for an across the board fare increase it would wish to take this opportunity to amend the structure of the fare tariff in Carlisle and bring it broadly into line with the other districts of Cumbria.
- 3.1.4 This could be accomplished by increasing the standing charge by 10p and amending the minimum distance for a flag charge for each journey from 4/5th of a mile to 1 mile and would produce the following:

| District of Cumbria | Charge for 4/5 th Mile £ | Charge for 1 Mile £ | Charge for 3 Miles £ | 3 Miles Ranking 1=Highest | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Allerdale | 2.00 | 2.00 | 5.20 | 2 | 2 |
| Barrow | 2.00 | 2.00 | 4.80 | 5 | 5 |
| Carlisle Current | 1.60 | 1.90 | 4.90 | 4 | |
| Carlisle Suggested | 2.00 | 2.00 | 5.00 | | 4 |
| Copeland | 2.00 | 2.00 | 4.80 | 5 | 5 |
| Eden | 2.00 | 2.00 | 5.60 | 1 | 1 |
| South Lakeland | 2.20 | 2.20 | 5.20 | 2 | 2 |

3.1.4 If the proposals are accepted the charge for journeys of 1 mile would increase by 5.3% from £1.90 to £2.00 and Carlisle would rank joint second. A journey for 3 miles would be increased by 10p (2.0%) to £5.00 giving a ranking of fourth. The greatest change would be to those journeys of up to 4/5th of a mile which would increase the fares by 25% but would bring Carlisle into line with the majority of the other Cumbrian districts.

3.2 Other Charges

The Association has not asked for any increases in the other charges which are as follows:-

3.2.1 Running Mileage Charge

The current charge of 30p per 1/5th of a mile was uplifted from 15th September 2000 and this remains unchanged.

3.2.2 Waiting Time

The current charge for waiting time was increased from 1 August 1999 to £6.90 per hour (£0.23 for 2 minutes) and is the lowest of all the Cumbrian Districts. The waiting time charges for the Districts are given below:

| | Existing £ |
|----------------|---------------|
| Allerdale | 7.00 |
| Barrow | 12.00 |
| Carlisle | 6.90 |
| Copeland | 12.00 |
| Eden | 9.00 |
| South Lakeland | 9.00 |

3.2.3 Unsociable Hours

The unsociable hours charges were amended from 01 August 1999 and the charges for the Cumbrian Districts are as follows:

| | Unsociable Hours | Bank Holidays | Eve of Christmas and New Year |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Allerdale | +50% | +75% | +100% |
| Barrow | +50% | +100% | +100% |
| Carlisle | +33.3% | +50% | +50% |
| Copeland | +50% | +50% | +50% |
| Eden | +33.3% | +50% | +50% |
| South Lakeland | +50% | +100% | +100% |

It can be seen from these charges that for unsociable hours Carlisle's plussage of 33.3% is the lowest along with Eden and for Bank Holidays and Christmas and New Year's Eve is equal lowest with Copeland and Eden.

3.2.4 Soiling Charges

The maximum soiling charge was uplifted to £25 with effect from 01 August 1999. Currently of the other Cumbrian Districts, Allerdale, Eden and Copeland have a soiling charge.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Members are asked to determine whether to increase fare tariffs in line with the proposals as set out overleaf.

| | Fare | Current Charge £ | Proposed Charge £ |
|-------|---|---------------------|----------------------|
| 4.1.1 | 4/5 th mile | 1.60 | 2.00 |
| 4.1.2 | 1 mile | 1.90 | 2.00 |
| 4.1.3 | 1/5 th mile | 0.30 | 0.30* |
| 4.1.4 | Waiting Time (each 2 mins) | 0.23 | 0.23* |
| 4.1.5 | Unsociable hours | +33.3% | +33.3%* |
| 4.1.6 | Bank Holidays and Christmas and New Years Eve | +50% | +50%* |
| 4.1.7 | Soiling (max) | 25.00 | 25.00* |

* No change.

- 4.2 If these revised tariffs were to be accepted then the implementation date would be as follows:-
- (a) If no objections are received or are subsequently withdrawn by the closing date of 26 October 2001 the new tariffs will apply from 29 October 2001.
 - (b) Any objections will be heard by the Council's Licensing and Regulatory Panel on 7 November 2001 and the table of fares shall come into force, with or without modification, on 12 November 2001.

D THOMAS
City Treasurer

Contact Officer: Maureen Williamson
Ext: 7291
City Treasury
Carlisle
16 September 2001
MW/f860102

Infirmity Street Garage
Newtown
Carlisle
CA2 7AA

Carlisle Taxi Association

14 June, 2001

Mr Messenger / Mr Sharrock
Licensing Officers
Carlisle City Council
Civic Centre
Carlisle
CA3 8QG

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| CHIEF CLERK | 18 JUN 2001 |
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| PASSED TO | IM |
| DATE | ✓ |

Dear Sirs:

I write on behalf of members of Carlisle Taxi Association.

I have been asked to write to you to request an increase in the hackney carriage fare structure.

It is perhaps best if you could arrange a meeting between the treasurers department, our association and yourselves, before the formal application from our association. This way the application will already have the approval of the treasurers department.

I would provisionally state that our members would prefer the running mileage charge of £1.50 per mile to stay the same with the main increase being implemented upon the initial hiring charge (currently £1.60).

Please do not hesitate to contact me when a meeting can be arranged.

Sincerely,



Wayne J Casey
Secretary



CITY OF CARLISLE
HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

| | | <u>Scale Adopted</u> <u>15th Sept 2000</u> £ | <u>Proposed Scale</u> £ |
|----------|--|---|--|
| 1 | Standing Charge If the distance does not: Exceed 4/5 ^{ths} mile Exceed 1 mile | 1.60 1.90 | 2.00 2.00 |
| 2 | Mileage For each subsequent 1/5 th of a mile | 0.30 | 0.30 |
| 3 | Waiting Time For each period of 2 minutes or uncompleted part thereof | 0.23 | 0.23 |
| 4 | Unsociable Hours - These plus rates apply to the above charges: a) For hirings commenced between 2300 hours and 0700 hours b) All day of Bank and Public Holidays c) Between 1200 hours and 2400 hours on Christmas and New Year's Eve | Plus 33.3% Plus 50% Plus 50% | Plus 33.3% Plus 50% Plus 50% |
| 5 | Extra Charges a) For each article of luggage conveyed outside the passenger compartment of the carriage b) For each perambulator or dog conveyed. c) Soiling Charge (maximum) | 0.10 0.10 25.00 | 0.10 0.10 25.00 |
| | Cost of 3 Miles Journey at Standard Rate | 4.90 | 5.00 |

City Treasury
Carlisle
16 September 2001
MW/f860102