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CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

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

Date of Meeting:- 30th April 2003

Agenda Item No:-

Public	Operational	Delegated: Yes
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Accompanying Comments and Statements	Required	Included
Environmental Impact Statement:	No	No
Corporate Management Team Comments:	No	No
Head of Finances Comments:	Yes	Yes
Head of Legal and Democratic Services Comments:	No	No
Head of Member Support and Employee Services Comments:	No	No

Title:- HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES REVIEW - OBJECTION

Report of:- HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SERVICES

Report reference:- EP. 30/03

Summary:-

At the Licensing and Regulatory Panel meeting on 2nd April 2003, an application by Carlisle Taxi Association to increase the Hackney tariff fare was approved, subject to the increase being advertised and no objections being received. The deadline for objections was 22nd April 2003. On this date a petition dated 18th April 2003 was received from Chris Bray, representing 21 licensed Hackney Drivers.

Recommendation:-

Members are requested to determine whether the increase in fare tariffs should be approved or amended in light of the objection.

Contact Officer: Jim Messenger **Ext:** 7026
Maureen McCartney 7291

CITY OF CARLISLE

To: The Chairman and Members of the Licensing and Regulatory Panel on
30th April 2003

HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES REVIEW

The following application was heard before the Licensing and Regulatory Panel on 2nd April 2003 and was approved in accordance with the recommendations at paragraph 4. The resolution was as follows:

RESOLVED – (1) That it be agreed to increase the Hackney Carriage fares in line with the proposals detailed at Appendix B to revised report EP.19/03.

(2) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be requested to advertise the City Council's intention to increase the tariffs and, subject to no objections being received, he be authorised to implement the revised tariffs upon the expiry of the relevant period as required by Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

As a result of the advert an objection has been received within the specified period from Chris Bray, who represents 21 licensed drivers. They feel that an increase at this time is inappropriate and suggest reviewing the situation in 6 months time (Appendix C).

The original report has been reproduced in full to allow members to reconsider in light of the objection.

1. THE APPLICATION

1.1 It is the prerogative of the Carlisle Taxi Association to request that the Licensing and Regulatory Panel approve fare increases. Following verbal discussion, a formal application was received from them on 17 February 2003. This application was listed for this panel on 5th March 2003, however the Association requested an adjournment to reconsider the tariff structure. The amended application is set out in Appendix A.

1.2 This report has been prepared in conjunction with Head of Finance.

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 10 October 2001. At that meeting Members approved the charges, which added 2.0% to the basic 3 miles journey and were effective from 29 October 2001. The detail of the increase was that 10p was added to the Standing Charge and the minimum distance was increased from 4/5th's mile to one mile. This is 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 increases in maintenance and insurance costs. Whilst the cost of diesel has fallen in the eighteen months to December 2002 there are strong indicators that world oil prices are set to escalate.
- 3.1.2 As measured by the RPI, inflation for the maintenance of motor vehicles' costs from June 2001 to December 2002 has risen overall by 6.6%. In this same period inflation for fares and other travel costs increased by 4.1%, motor insurance has increased by 3.5% with a reduction in the rate of inflation for petrol and oil costs by 5.5%.
- 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 would be accomplished by increasing the basic charge to 2.10p and changing the flag drop distance to 7/8th mile, instead of the current £2 and 1 mile respectively. The running mileage charge would decrease from 30p to 20p, however it is also proposed to amend the running charge to each 1/8th mile (220 yards), rather than the current charge by each 1/5th mile (352 yards). This would produce the following comparisons:

3.1.5

District of Cumbria	Charge for 1 Mile £	Charge for 3 Miles £	3 Miles Ranking 1=Highest		Date Introduced
Allerdale	2.20	5.80	1	1	April 2002
Barrow	2.50	5.40	4	5	June 2002
Carlisle Current	2.00	5.00	5		October 2001
Carlisle Suggested	2.30	5.50		3	
Copeland	2.00	4.80	6	6	July 2001
Eden	2.00	5.60	2	2	January 2001
South Lakeland	2.30	5.50	3	3	July 2002

3.1.6 If the proposals are accepted, the charge for journeys of 1 mile would increase by 30p and Carlisle would be joint second. A journey for 3 miles would be increased by 50p (10%) to £5.50, joint third.

3.1.7 Waiting Time

The current charge for waiting time has not been increased since 1 August 1999 and is currently the lowest of all the Cumbrian Districts. It is further proposed to take this opportunity to bring Carlisle's charges for waiting time into line with other Districts, as given below:

	Existing £	Proposed £
Allerdale	7.20	7.20
Barrow	12.00	12.00
Carlisle	6.90	12.00
Copeland	12.00	12.00
Eden	10.00	10.00
South Lakeland	12.00	12.00

3.2 Other Charges

There is no request for an increase in other charges which are:-

3.2.1 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.

3.2.2 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 below and at Appendix B.

	Fare	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge £
4.1.1	9/10 th mile (1584 yards)	2.00	
4.1.2	7/8 th mile (1540 yards)		2.10
4.1.3	From 1/5 th mile (352 yards) to 1/8 th mile (200 yards)	0.30	0.20
4.1.4	Waiting Time (each 2 mins) Waiting Time (each 1 min)	0.23	0.20
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 22 April 2003 the new tariffs will apply from 28 April 2003.

(b) Any objections will be heard by the Council's Licensing and Regulatory Panel on 30th April 2003 and the table of fares shall come into force, with or without modification, on 6th May 2003.

4.3 As a result of the objection, paragraph 4(b) will apply and the Panel today must decide if a modification is required.

5. OPTIONS

5.1 To ratify the resolution of 2nd April 2003 and impose the new charges

5.2 Modify the resolution in accordance with the objection

Prepared by J A Messenger
Licensing Manager

Carlisle Taxi Association
Application for an increase in Hackney Tariff Fares

26th March 2003

Tariff 1

Minimum Charge

If the distance does not exceed 7/8th mile (1540 yards) £2.10

For each subsequent 220 yards £0.20

Waiting time for each period of 1 minute £0.20

Tariff 2

Minimum Charge

If the distance does not exceed 7/8th mile (1540 yards) £2.80

For each subsequent 220 yards £0.25

Waiting time for each period of 1 minute £0.25

Tariff 3

Minimum Charge

If the distance does not exceed 7/8th mile (1540 yards) £3.15

For each subsequent 220 yards £0.30

Waiting time for each period of 1 minute £0.30

CITY OF CARLISLE
HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

		<u>Scale Adopted</u> <u>29th Oct 2001</u> £	<u>Proposed Scale</u> £
1	Standing Charge If the distance does not: Exceed 1 mile Exceed 7/8 th mile	2.00 -	- 2.10
2	Mileage For each subsequent 1/5 th of a mile (352 yards) For each subsequent 1/8 th mile (220 yards)	0.30 -	- 0.20
3	Waiting Time For each period of 2 minutes or uncompleted part thereof: For each period of 1 minute or uncompleted part thereof	0.23	0.20
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	5.00	5.50

APP'C

18/04/2003

C Bray
16 beaver rd
Carlisle
CA2 7PS

To the panel

I have asked the licensing officer Jim Messenger to read this letter to the panel in my absence.

I Chris Bray have been asked to represent the people listed on the petition attached to oppose any tariff increase at the present time.

We feel at this time it would not benefit the general public or the taxi trade as a whole, because of the impending downturn in the economy.

In the last several years' trade as a whole has diminished and would only dwindle further should we increase fares at this time benefiting no one.

A downturn in the economy means people spend less of there money which would affect the taxi trade.

I therefore ask the panel to suspend any tariff increase and review the situation in six months time by which time the economy and public confidence will be a little clearer to gage.

I regrettably have other engagements and would like to apologise for my absence.

Yours Sincerely C Bray



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NAME	BADGE NO	SIGNATURE
IRIS BRAY.	364	<i>[Signature]</i>
SAN BRAY.	416	<i>[Signature]</i>
JOS POWLEY.	636	<i>[Signature]</i>
V. Lawson	601	<i>[Signature]</i>
E. BLACKLOCK		<i>[Signature]</i>
D. FISHER		<i>[Signature]</i>
W. J. SKELTON	738	<i>[Signature]</i>
A. BRUNSKILL	385	<i>[Signature]</i>

NAME	BADGE NO	SIGNATURE
M MARTIN	421	<i>[Signature]</i>
M. BULMAN	468	<i>[Signature]</i>
AS HELG	515	<i>[Signature]</i>
J. GRAHAM	061	<i>[Signature]</i>
Amultholman	290	<i>[Signature]</i>
! ROTTILL	398	<i>[Signature]</i>

NAME	BADGE NO	SIGNATURE
GELAZI SLOAN	439	<i>[Signature]</i>
B LOCKWOOD	551	<i>[Signature]</i>
S. Dawidson		<i>[Signature]</i>
J BOWMAN		<i>[Signature]</i>
P. KRIVICKAS		<i>[Signature]</i>
S. MORTON	221	<i>[Signature]</i>
R. CUTTER	302	<i>[Signature]</i>