

(REVISED)

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## CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

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

Date of Meeting:- 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2003

Agenda Item No:-

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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

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Title:-

**HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES REVIEW**

Report of:-

**HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SERVICES**

Report reference:-

**EP. 19/03**

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### Summary:-

The report asks the Panel to consider an application for an increase in Hackney Carriage fares. The Panel last considered an application for an increase on 10 October 2001 and approved a range of increases as per Appendix B with effect from 29 October 2001.

### 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.

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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  
2<sup>nd</sup> April 2003

HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES REVIEW

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 4/5<sup>th</sup>'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 7/8<sup>th</sup> 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 1/8<sup>th</sup> mile (220 yards), rather than the current charge by each 1/5<sup>th</sup> 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.

3.1.6 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

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

#### 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.

#### 3.2.3 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 <sup>th</sup> mile (1584 yards)	2.00	
4.1.2	7/8 <sup>th</sup> mile (1540 yards)		2.10
4.1.3	From 1/5 <sup>th</sup> mile (352 yards) to 1/8 <sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> April 2003 and the table of fares shall come into force, with or without modification, on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2003.

Prepared by J A Messenger  
Licensing Manager

Carlisle Taxi Association  
Application for an increase in Hackney Tariff Fares

26<sup>th</sup> March 2003

Tariff 1

Minimum Charge

If the distance does not exceed 7/8 <sup>th</sup> 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 7/8 <sup>th</sup> 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 7/8 <sup>th</sup> 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>29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2001</u> £	<u>Proposed Scale</u> £
<b>1</b>	<b>Standing Charge</b> If the distance does not: Exceed 1 mile Exceed 7/8 <sup>th</sup> mile	2.00 -	- 2.10
<b>2</b>	<b>Mileage</b> For each subsequent 1/5 <sup>th</sup> of a mile (352 yards) For each subsequent 1/8 <sup>th</sup> mile (220 yards)	0.30 -	- 0.20
<b>3</b>	<b>Waiting Time</b> For each period of 2 minutes or uncompleted part thereof: For each period of 1 minute or uncompleted part thereof	0.23	0.20
<b>4</b>	<b>Unsociable Hours</b> - 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%
<b>5</b>	<b>Extra Charges</b> 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
	<b>Cost of 3 Miles Journey at Standard Rate</b>	5.00	5.50