

LICENSING COMMITTEE



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| Report subject | Review of the Hackney Carriage maximum fares and charges tariff |
| Meeting date | 12 March 2026 |
| Status | Public Report |
| Executive summary | <p>A request has been received by Mr David Lane on behalf of BCP taxi private hire association for amendments to the current Hackney Carriage Tariff.</p> <p>The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows the council to fix the rates or fares within the district for time as well as distance.</p> <p>Any change in the tariff will be reflected across all three current Hackney Carriage zones within BCP Council conurbation.</p> |
| Recommendations | <p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Members consider the request for an adjustment in the current fares and charges. Members can either</p> <p>I. Approve the changes</p> <p>II. Approve the changes with amendments</p> <p>III. Refuse the proposed change</p> |
| Reason for recommendations | <p>Section 65 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows the council to fix the rates of fares and charges to be paid in respect of the hire of a Hackney Carriage.</p> <p>The taxi trade has requested a change to the current rates and charges.</p> |

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| Portfolio Holder(s): | Councillor Kieron Wilson – Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulatory Services |
| Corporate Director | Laura Ambler - Corporate Director for Wellbeing |
| Report Authors | Trudi Barlow – Licensing Officer |
| Wards | Council-wide |
| Classification | For Decision |

Background

1. On 16 December 2025, Mr David Lane on behalf of BCP taxi and private hire association emailed the Licensing Team with a request for a change to the current fares and charges which are published in the form of a tariff chart.
2. Officers corresponded with Mr Lane to clarify certain aspects of the proposal. The full thread of these emails including the initial request is attached at Appendix 1
3. The current tariff was agreed by the Licensing Committee on 7 March 2024, (see Appendix 2).
4. These tariffs are the maximum fare that a BCP Hackney Carriage (Taxi) can charge when taking a customer(s) whose journey begins and ends in the zone in which the vehicle is licensed. All other fares can be negotiated before the journey commences and are not necessarily calculated by the meter.
5. Mr Lane has been invited by the Chair to present the reasons for this request during the meeting. A copy of his presentation is attached at Appendix 3.

Summary of proposed changed

6. Appendix 3 provides detailed information of BCP taxi and private hire association's submission and Mr Lane will provide further information verbally during the hearing. The following is a summary of the proposed changes to commence on the 5 May 2026:-

Rate 1 – day rate

Increase the first mile charge by £1.00 from £5.66 to £6.66.

Rate 2 - night rate

Increase the first mile charge by £1.00 from £7.55 to £8.55.

Amend the times this rate is applicable from 0000 – 0630 to 2200 – 0600 hours.

Decrease the subsequent mile charge by 0.32p from £3.82 to £3.50.

Rate 3 – Christmas/New Year

Increase the first mile charge by £1.00 from £8.49 to £9.49.

Amend the times this rate is applicable from 0000 – 0630 to 2200 – 0600 at Christmas and the New Year (dates unchanged).

New Rates for multiple seater vehicles for between 5 and 8 passengers

Introduce separate rates for larger vehicles that can accommodate between 5 and 8 passengers.

These will be charged when more than 4 passengers are carried in the vehicle.

Rate 4 – day rate

Increase in the first mile charge by £2.33 from £7.66 to £9.99

Increase in the subsequent mile charge by £1.43 from £2.86 to £4.29

Rate 5 – night rate

Increase in the first mile charge by £3.27 from £9.55 to £12.82

Increase in the subsequent mile charge by £1.43 from £3.82 to £5.25

Rate 6 – Christmas/ New Year

Increase in the first mile charge by £3.25 from £10.49 to £13.74

Increase in the subsequent mile charge by £2.14 from £4.28 to £6.42

Booking Fee for pre-booked hirings

Amend the fee charged currently this is £1.00 for rate 1 and £1.25 for rate 2. This would now increase to £2.00.

Extra charges

Removal of extra charges for the number of passengers and items of luggage and for multi seater vehicles.

Consultation

7. Section 65 (2 a and b) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 require that when any change is made to the fares and charges for hackney carriages, the council must publish a notice of the amended charges in at least one local newspaper and must specify the period of not less than 14 days, for objections to be made.. A copy of the notice must also be published at the council offices for the period of 14 days from the date of first publication.
8. If no objections are received the change will come into operation on the 5 May 2025.
9. If objections are made and not withdrawn, then the committee will have to consider the objections, and any agreed changes or modifications would then come into operation on a specific date no more than 2 months after the original consultation period.

Options Appraisal

10. Members consider the request for an adjustment in the current fares and charges.
11. For information to compare our fares with other areas the Private Hire and Taxi Monthly magazine publishes a fare chart. You can search by local authority. Hackney Taxi Fare Tables ([Hackney Taxi Fare Tables](#)) This shows that the 2 mile average is £7.40. BCP Council currently rank at number 44 out 337 listed.

12. The proposed increase will change the fare from £8.52 to £9.52 this will rank BCP Council at number 9 in the table.
13. A comparison of current fares from neighbouring authorities is attached at Appendix 4.
14. Members can either
 - I. Approve the changes as requested. The proposed chart reflecting the changes as requested is attached at Appendix 5. Or
 - II. Approve the changes with amendments as agreed by members, a new fare chart will then be created. Or
 - III. Refuse the proposed change and retain the current fare tariff.
15. If approved the changes will be published for 14 days for public consultation as specified by the legislation.

Summary of financial implications

16. The costs of the public notices in the paper are met within current budget.

Summary of legal implications

17. There are no legal implications

Summary of human resources implications

18. There are no human resources implications

Summary of sustainability impact

19. There are no sustainability impact implications

Summary of public health implications

20. There are no public health implications

Summary of equality implications

21. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) screening document has been completed and accepted by the Equalities team.
22. The summary states: 'The requested increase in hackney carriage fares will have an impact on all passengers but particularly those on lower socioeconomic status and disabled passengers who may have less disposable income and who are more likely to depend on public transport and taxis.'
23. However, without an increase there is a likelihood that drivers and vehicle licence holders will not retain existing licences and may move to other local authority areas resulting in a shortage of vehicles to service our residents, tourists and those vulnerable people who rely on them for hospital and school transports and disabled people who need to use a wheelchair accessible vehicle.'

Summary of risk assessment

24. There are risks with any decision made in relation to these fares, which can impact on the service delivery and capacity to cost recovery as well as the public's ability to afford such journeys.

Background papers

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 section 65

[Local Government \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 1976](#)

Appendices

Appendix 1 –Emails from BCP taxi /private hire association requesting changes in fares

Appendix 2 – Current Hackney Tariff Fare Chart 2024

Appendix 3 - Email from BCP taxi /private hire association presentation

Appendix 4 – Comparison of fares with neighbouring taxi licensing authorities

Appendix 5 – Proposed Hackney Tariff Fare Chart 2026