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LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE  
30 JUNE 2022

Report of the Director of Regulatory Services

## **TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING PROPOSED INCREASE TO THE TABLE OF MAXIMUM FARES FOR TAXIS**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide the Committee with an update on a review of the District Council's current table of maximum Taxi Fares, requested by the Hackney Carriage (Taxi) Trade; and to consider a proposed table of revised fares agreed with the Trade, for advertisement to the public, as the procedure requires.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That the action taken in agreeing a revised table of maximum fares for publication and advertisement is confirmed.
2. That the proposed table of maximum taxi fares be approved and a date for implementation of the new tariff, be agreed.
3. That the table of maximum taxi fares is reviewed every 3 years, starting in 2024/2025.

### **WARDS AFFECTED**

All

### **STRATEGIC LINK**

An effective licensing regime contributes towards the District Council's Place objective, in terms of keeping the Derbyshire Dales clean, green and safe.

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#### 1 Background

##### 1.1 **The Law**

Under section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 part II, a Local Authority has powers to review and set fares for hackney carriages (taxis that can be hailed in the street or hired at a taxi rank).

- 1.2 Fares charged by drivers of private hire vehicles or private hire operators are not regulated by the District Council. The fare is agreed by the Private Hire Operator and the passenger at the time the booking is made. A Private Hire Vehicle must be pre-booked before the journey commences.

### 1.3 Request from the Taxi Trade for Increase to Fares

A request from several members of the Council's licensed Taxi Trade, (Hackney Carriage Vehicle Drivers/Operators) has been received, for a review to increase the table of the maximum taxi fares they can charge their passengers.

- 1.4 The Table of Maximum Fares was last reviewed in July 2011 with the current table being approved and implemented in September 2011.
- 1.5 The original request was made before the start of the COVID Pandemic, and since then several drivers have also requested that the fares are increased. At a previous meeting of this Committee it was resolved that discussions should take place with the trade to agree a tariff of maximum fares that could then be advertised for comment.
- 1.6 Discussions with the trade in person and via email have taken place, with approximately 25% of the hackney carriage trade actively engaging in those discussions. Different proposals were considered by Officers and these were circulated to all of the licensed drivers to find a preferred option.
- 1.7 The District Council currently licences circa 100 combined (taxi) hackney carriage/private hire vehicle driver licences. Around 50% of these work mainly in the Derbyshire Dales providing a local service to residents and tourists.

### 1.8 Current Tariff of Fares

The current tariff of fares is detailed in Appendix 1, for information.

- 1.9 A 'league table' of taxi fares charged in the 355 Council Districts/Boroughs across the country, is published monthly in the Private Hire and Taxi Monthly Magazine.  
<https://www.phtm.co.uk/taxi-fares-league-tables>

The data published refers specifically to the cost of a 2-mile taxi fare (hackney carriage) on Tariff 1. Derbyshire Dales is currently ranked 342<sup>nd</sup> in the table (13<sup>th</sup> lowest), with the Tariff 1 fare over 2 miles, being £4:80.

- 1.10 Other fares and positions in the league table for other Derbyshire Authorities are currently as follows:

<b>Derbyshire Authority</b>	<b>Current rate for Tariff 1 over 2 miles</b>	<b>Place in 'league table' PHTM journal</b>
Amber Valley BC	£5.20	318
Bolsover BC	£4.60	344
Chesterfield BC	£5.75	264
Derby City	£6.20	170
Derbyshire Dales DC	£4.80	342
Erewash BC	£5.50	290
High Peak BC	£6.60	104
North East Derbyshire DC	£5.75	266
South Derbyshire DC	No hackneys	n/a

## 1.11 Proposed Increase to Tariff of Maximum Taxi Fares for Derbyshire Dales

There is a proposal currently being considered to increase the Taxi Fares as follows:

<b>Tariff 1</b>	<b>Tariff 2</b>	<b>Tariff 3</b>
<b>T1 Flag £4.00</b> for 1 mile then £2.40 per mile <b>£18.00</b> hour waiting time  Fare over 2 miles = <b>£6.40</b>  Increase to current fare would be an <b>extra £1.60</b> at 2 miles then <b>extra 60p</b> per mile.	<b>T2 Flag £5.00</b> for 1 mile then £3.00 per mile <b>£25.00</b> hour waiting time  Fare over 2 miles = <b>£8.00</b>  Increase would be an <b>extra</b> <b>80p</b> at 2 miles then <b>extra 30p</b> per mile.	<b>T3 Flag £6.75 for 1 mile then</b> <b>£4.00 per mile</b> <b>£35.00 hour waiting</b> <b>time</b>  <b>Fare over 2 miles = £10.75</b>

Things the Committee may wish to consider:

- A number of other local authorities across the country have recently reviewed and revised their maximum table of taxi fares, taking account of rising costs of fuel, utilities, insurance, second hand car market, licence fees and other business cost increases that the Taxi Trade have been experiencing.
- The fares have remained the same in Derbyshire Dales for nearly 11 years. In considering the different proposals received, Officers have taken into account that if a request for an increase had been received from the Trade every 3 years since 2011, there would have been 4 increases during the last 11 year period. This current proposal could therefore be seen as being equivalent to an increase of 25p to tariff 1 in each 3-year period since the last increase.
- The rural nature of this district means that many journeys made contain a large proportion of 'dead' mileage. For example: if someone in Wirksworth books a taxi which has to travel from Matlock or further to pick them up, that mileage needs to be recoverable. This is not an issue for licensed drivers operating mainly in a town or city centre where the journeys are mostly short ones.
- There will be some Taxi Drivers that do not want the fares to be increased as customers are also experiencing rising costs. However, this is a table of maximum fares – drivers can charge less than the meter fare; but they cannot charge more, under any circumstances.

## 1.12 Advertisement of the Proposed Table of Fares

Once a table of fares has been agreed with the trade it has to be advertised for a period of 14 days, to allow any objections/comments. If no objections are received then the increase can take effect on the expiry date of the 14 day period.

As the Committee, at a former meeting gave approval for Officers to enter into discussions with the taxi trade and agree a suitable table of fares, the preferred option by the trade has been advertised in the Derbyshire Times, prior to the meeting to minimise any delay in moving this forwards. Any comments received as a result of the advertisement will be reported at the meeting.

The last date for comments is 7<sup>th</sup> July and as that is after the date of this meeting, the committee may wish to consider delegating the Director of Regulatory Services to consider and respond to any further comments/objections, if received, based on the outcomes of the debate at the meeting.

## **2 RISK ASSESSMENT**

### **2.1 Legal**

Subject to full compliance with the appropriate regulations referred to earlier in the report, the legal risk associated with the recommendations is assessed as low.

### **2.2 Financial**

There are no significant financial implications arising from this report. The costs of the consultation and advertisements can be contained within existing budgets, hence the financial risk is assessed as low.

## **3 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, environmental, health, climate change, human rights, personnel, and property.

## **4 CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## **5 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Data from other Authorities – Private Hire Monthly  
<https://www.phtm.co.uk/taxi-fares-league-tables>

Emails from Trade - March/April 2022

## **6 ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix 1 – Table of Current Taxi Fares