

**South Lakeland District Council**  
**Licensing Regulatory Committee**  
**Monday, 28 March 2022**

**Review of Hackney Carriage Fares**

**Portfolio:** Economy, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder  
**Report from:** Director of Customer and Commercial Services.  
**Report Author:** Neil Gardiner – Licensing (Specialist)  
**Wards:** (All Wards);  
**Forward Plan:** This fare review is a function of the Hackney Carriage and private Hire Policy dated 2018 and is delegated to the Licensing Regulatory Committee

**1.0 Expected Outcome and Measures of Success**

- 1.1 On the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 the South Lakeland Hackney Carriage maximum fare tariff was increased by 5.4 % by the Licensing Regulatory Committee. The last actual increase being in April 2014.
- 1.2 Two representations have been received from members of the trade and are detailed at **Appendix 'A'**. Contained in one representation is a petition. A representation from a member of the public supporting the percentage increase is detailed at **Appendix A.1**
- 1.3 One representation, shown within '**Appendix A**', requests a 25% increase. Increasing a tariff 1 fare to £8.00 for the first two miles.

**2.0 Recommendation**

**2.1 It is recommended that Committee members**

- (1) **Consider the representations received by the Licensing Authority to the proposed fare tariff of 5.4%.**
- (2) **Consider whether to:**
- i) Modify the proposed table of fares further, taking into account representation(s), or;**
- ii) Make no further modification to the proposed table of fares agreed by Members of the Licensing Regulatory Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**
- (3) **Approve for the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022 as the date upon which the modifications to the maximum fares shall take effect.**

**3.0 Background and Proposals**

- 3.1 This report is presented to explain the proposed intentions and existing actions to offer committee members the opportunity to make further revisions to the Hackney Carriage maximum fare tariff.
- 3.2 All changes to the Hackney Carriage tariff table in use in South Lakeland must be approved by the Licensing Regulatory Committee.

Members will be aware of point 5.4 in the Hackney Carriage policy, which describes the criteria to be utilised when considering any revision to be made:

- Reasonable and fair to all stakeholders
  - Proportionate with the locality
  - Benchmarking with other local authorities
  - Justified
  - Simple, and easily calculated
  - Designed with a view to practicality
  - In line with published best practice guidance
  - Mathematically correct and capable of being entered onto a meter
  - Structurally the same for vehicles of different seating capacity
  - Designed where possible to avoid either deliberate or accidental over charging.
- 3.3 South Lakeland Licensing Authority started the process of revising the Hackney Carriage tariff of maximum fares on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 by surveying the Hackney trade via an email consultation.
- 3.4 51 replies were received, (18.6% of the 274 drivers emailed). Of the 51 replies, 29 drivers, (56.8%) voted for a percentage increase to tariff 1 greater than the proposed 2.9% increase. 12 drivers voted for an increase for the whole distance, 7 drivers voted for no change to the tariff and 2 drivers voted for an increase to the first mile of 2.9%. No drivers voted for a decrease and 1 driver provided a non sensible reply.
- 3.5 Members were presented with a report on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022, which set out the requests of the trade, fare table comparison charts and a national comparison league table with neighbouring authorities. Committee report dated 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 can be found as **Appendix B**.
- 3.6 On the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022, members of the committee agreed with the driver preferred option to increase the proposed percentage rate of fares, more than the one suggested of 2.9%. This figure was the increase in the Consumer Price index November 2021. The CPI covers retail purchase items, fuels and the cost of borrowing.<sup>1</sup>
- 3.7 Members opted for a two-mile fare, at tariff 1 to be increased by 5.4%.
- 3.7.1 For members convenience two comparison tables have been drafted into this report for an overview of the 5.4% increase.

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<sup>1</sup> [Consumer price indices, a brief guide - Office for National Statistics](#)  
Items 07.2.2.1 & 07.2.2.2

### 3.7.2 Current tables of fares [before 17.01.2022]

Description	Tariff 1 (£)	Tariff 2 (£)	Tariff 3 (£)
For the whole distance (1 <sup>st</sup> mile or part thereof)	3:70	5:55	7:40
For each subsequent 1/10 <sup>th</sup> mile	0:27	0:41	0:54
Waiting time – for each period of one minute	0:30	0:30	0:30
2 mile journey costs	6:40	9:65	12:80

### 3.7.3 New Fare schedule. [detailing the 5.4% increase as of 17.01.2022]

Description	Tariff 1 (£)	Tariff 2 (£)	Tariff 3 (£)
For the whole distance (1 <sup>st</sup> mile or part thereof)	£3.90	£5.85	£7.80
For each subsequent 1/10 <sup>th</sup> mile	£0.28	£0.42	£0.56
Waiting time – for each period of one minute	0:30	0:30	0:30
2 mile journey costs	£6.70	£10.05	£13.40

### 3.7.4 Key

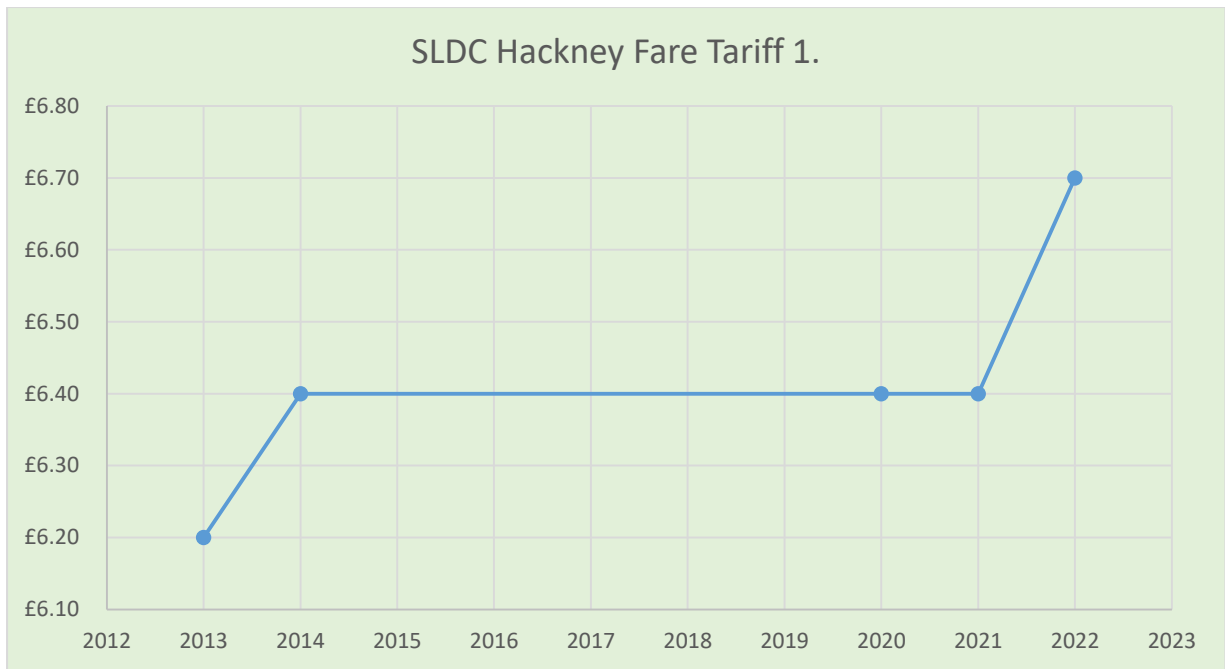
**Tariff 1** = Daily 07:00 hours to 23:00 hours

**Tariff 2** = Daily 23:00 hours to 07:00 hours at Tariff 1 + 50%

**Tariff 3** = Bank Holidays from 00:00 hours to 24:00 hours at Tariff 1 +100%.  
Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve from 19:00 hours to 24:00 hours at Tariff 1 +100%.

Extras = £0:70 per person in excess of 2 passengers. £100 maximum soiling charge.

3.8 To gain a year on year overview of SLDC Hackney Carriage tariff 1 fare, members can view the below graph displaying the fares plotted out between 2013 to 2022 as below. [Jan 2013 – April 2014 was the last actual increase. ]



3.8.1 The new modification places the administrative area of SLDC higher than our neighbouring districts.



3.8.2 The revised Tariff 1 fare of £6.70 raises our national position in the league of Hackney Fare tariffs out of 364 authorities from 109 to 64. (*Heathrow airport being number 1*)

3.9 In summary of points 3.1 – 3.11, SLDC had the most costly two-mile Hackney fare tariff in Cumbria [before any increase]. The revised fare has raised the cost of a two mile journey from £6.40 to £6.70 for a tariff 1 fare.

3.10 The increase of 5.4% places SLDC at 64<sup>th</sup> in the whole country, from a national table of 364 Local Authorities. [Indicative data correct on 18.02.2022].

- 3.11 Following the statutory 14 day public consultation Members are now asked to examine the representations received.

#### **4.0 Appendices Attached to this Report**

<b>Appendix No.</b>	<b>Name of Appendix</b>
A	List of representations objecting to the proposed increase.
A.1	Email supporting the proposed increase.
B	Licensing Regulatory Authority Committee Report dated 17.01.2022

#### **5.0 Consultation**

- 5.1 As members approved a change to the current table of fares on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022, The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1976, s.65 states a public notice displaying the changes in the Hackney Carriage fare tariff schedule was placed in a local newspaper.
- 5.2 As per our legal obligation a notice was placed in The Westmorland Gazette beginning a consultation period of fourteen days from the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to midnight on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022. In addition to this, the same public notice was placed on the SLDC website with a further one placed on the Hackney Rank in Ulverston.
- 5.3 As representations were received, the schedule of changes cannot take effect until the Licensing Regulatory Committee has considered the representations which have been received

#### **6.0 Alternative Options**

- 6.1 Members are reminded that any movement in Hackney Carriage Fares is at their discretion. Fares can be increased, decreased or frozen.

#### **7.0 Implications**

##### **Financial, Resources and Procurement**

- 7.1 Any costs resulting from the modifications to the maximum table of fares will be met by the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing budget.

##### **Human Resources**

- 7.2 N/A

##### **Legal**

- 7.3 Section 65 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows the District Council to fix the table of fares for the hiring of Hackney Carriage vehicles throughout the District. Section 65 (2) requires that the Council shall publish its intention to vary the table of fares for the hiring of a hackney carriage vehicle in at least one local newspaper. The consultation process outlined at 5.0 was undertaken for a period of at least 14 days.
- 7.4 As the objections received as part of the consultation period have not been withdrawn, Members are asked to approve the date of 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022 for the changes, with or without further modification after consideration of the objections, to the maximum table of fares to come into force. This date should be not later than two months after the first specified date for the modification to take effect.

## Health and Sustainability Impact Assessment

7.5 The intention of this report is not to replicate or revise what is mandated in the South Lakeland Hackney Carrige Policy.

### Equality and Diversity

7.6 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

7.7 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

7.8 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

7.9 In recommending this proposal, potential impacts have been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act and an Equalities Act.

7.10 Summary of Equality and Diversity impacts

Please indicate: P = Positive impact; 0 = Neutral; N = Negative; Enter "X"					
Age	P		0	x	N
Disability	P		0	x	N
Gender reassignment (transgender)	P		0	x	N
Marriage & civil partnership	P		0	x	N
Pregnancy & maternity	P		0	x	N
Race/ethnicity	P		0	x	N
Religion or belief	P		0	x	N
Sex/gender	P		0	x	N
Sexual orientation	P		0	x	N
Armed forces families	P		0	x	N
Rurality	P		0	x	N
Socio-economic disadvantage	P		0		N x

7.11 All sub headings within the Equality and Diversity form have been assessed with regard to the impact that this decision may have members of the community. With the exception of socio-economic disadvantage, all other categories have been assessed as having a neutral affect. The decision has been assessed as potentially

having a negative impact on Socio-economic disadvantage should members choose to increase fares.

Risk Management	Consequence	Controls required
Whilst the actual process of the 'fare review' is not appealable at Magistrates, any conditions of operating a Hackney carriage are. One of those conditions is the operation of a meter and the rates are prescribed by the District Council.	Potential legal action which could result in costs and adverse publicity.	Evidential and justifiable review of the Hackney Fare in SLDC following the consultation process.

### Contact Officers

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### Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
Proposed Variation of Hackney Carriage Fare 2016	<a href="#">hyperlink to report LR/7</a>
Frequency of review for Hackney Carriage Fares	<a href="#">Hyperlink to report LR/8</a>
Hackney Carriage Policy	<a href="#">SLDC Hackney Carriage Policy.</a>
Hackney fare tables National Chart.	<a href="#">Hackney Taxi Fare Tables (phtm.co.uk)</a>
RAC Transport Price Index	<a href="#">Cost of public Transport Increase 2012 - 2022</a>

### Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent	Date Signed off
Section 151 Officer	14/03/2022	16/03/2022
Monitoring Officer	14/03/2022	15/03/2022
Director of Customer and Commercial Services	14/03/2022	15/03/2022

Circulated to	Date sent
Principal Specialist	14/03/2022
Human Resources Lead Specialist	N/A
Communications Team	N/A
Leader	N/A
Committee Chairman	N/A
Portfolio Holder	N/A
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	N/A
Executive (Cabinet)	N/A
Council	N/A