

**Subject:** Proposal to increase the Hackney  
Carriage Taximeter Tariff and  
Soiling Charge

**Status:** For Publication

**Report to:** Licensing Committee

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> October 2007

**Report of:** Licensing Manager

**Portfolio**

**Holder:** Well Managed Council

**Key Decision:** No

Forward Plan

General Exception

Special Urgency

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform members of the current tariffs chargeable via the taximeter in respect of Hackney Carriages within Rossendale Borough Council.
- 1.2 To inform members of a request from the Taxi trade to increase the current Hackney Carriage Tariff (Appendix 1)
- 1.3 To inform members of how Rossendale's current Tariffs compare nationally.
- 1.4 To inform members of a request from the Taxi trade to increase the current soiling charge for Hackney Carriage's (Appendix 2)
- 1.5 To request that the Committee determines whether to increase the hackney carriage taximeter tariff charge to £2.50 for the first mile and the soiling charge to £50.
- 1.6 To draw Members attention to the current table to charges and to consider reviewing these charges in addition.

**2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.
  - Delivering Quality Services to Customers (Customers, Improvement)
  - Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit (Economy)

### 3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

### 4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

#### Tariff 1 Flag increase

4.1 A written request was received from the Rossendale Taxi Association requesting that the Hackney Carriage Flag 1 tariff be increased to £2.50. A copy of this request is at Appendix 1.

4.2 At the Taxi Liaison Group on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2007 it was agreed that this request would be taken to the Licensing Committee for determination. An extract from the minutes of the meeting is included at Appendix 3.

4.3 This request relates to the Flag only and not the running cost per mile after the 1<sup>st</sup> mile.

4.4 No request has been made to revise tariff 2 however, for information, national comparative data on tariff 2 at is included at Appendix 8.

4.5 The current table of fares for hackney Carriages – distance and times – is included at Appendix 4.

4.5 Comparative National Data from the National League Tables compiled by Private Hire & Taxi Monthly magazine for September 2007 is as follows:-

	<b>TARIFF 1 – 6.00am to Midnight (per mile)</b>					
	<b>FLAG</b>	<b>ONE</b>	<b>TWO</b>	<b>FIVE</b>	<b>TEN</b>	<b>RUNNING</b>
<b>RBC</b>	£2.30	£2.30	£4.00	£9.10	£17.60	£1.70
<b>AVERAGE</b>	£2.29	£3.08	£4.61	£9.25	£17.04	£1.54
<b>COMPARISON</b>	<b>+£0.01</b>	<b>-£0.78</b>	<b>-£0.61</b>	<b>-£0.15</b>	<b>+£0.56</b>	<b>+£0.16</b>

4.6 The proposed new Flag Comparison is:-

	<b>TARIFF 1 – 6.00am to Midnight (per mile)</b>					
	<b>FLAG</b>	<b>ONE</b>	<b>TWO</b>	<b>FIVE</b>	<b>TEN</b>	<b>RUNNING</b>
<b>RBC</b>	£2.50	£2.50	£4.20	£9.30	£17.80	£1.70
<b>AVERAGE</b>	£2.29	£3.08	£4.61	£9.25	£17.04	£1.54
<b>COMPARISON</b>	<b>+£0.21</b>	<b>-£0.58</b>	<b>-£0.41</b>	<b>+£0.05</b>	<b>+£0.76</b>	<b>+£0.16</b>

4.7 Further national information supplied by Private Hire & Taxi Monthly magazine for September 2007 is as follows:-

**Tariff One 2 Mile Fares**

- 370 (98%) of all T1 fares are at / better than £3.70
- 224 (59%) of all councils set 2 mile fares at / or over £4.50
- 300 (79%) of all councils set 2 mile fares at / or over £4.20
- 329 (87%) of all councils set 2 mile fares BETTER than £4.00
- **344 (91%) of all councils set 2 mile fares at / or over £4.00**
- 111 (29%) of councils now set 2 mile fares at / or over £5.00
- 3 councils now set fares at / or over £6.00

**Tariff One 5 Mile Fares**

- 370 (98%) of all T1 fares are at/better than £7.00
- 215 (57%) of all councils set 5 mile fares at / or over £9.00
- 288 (76%) of all councils set 5 mile fares at / or over £8.25
- 310 (82%) of all councils set 5 mile fares BETTER than £8.00
- **352 (93%) of all councils set 5 mile fares at / or over £7.50**
- 107 (28%) of councils now set 5 mile fares at / or over £10.00
- 3 councils now set fares at / or over £13.00

**Tariff One 10 Mile Fares**

- 374 (99%) of all T1 fares are at/better than £11.00
- 205 (54%) of all councils set 10 mile fares at / or over £16.50
- 290 (77%) of all councils set 10 mile fares at / or over £15.00
- 334 (88%) of all councils set 10 mile fares BETTER than £14.00
- **358 (95%) of all councils set 10 mile fares at / or over £13.00**
- 90 (24%) of councils now set 10 mile fares at / or over £19.00
- 2 councils now set fares at / or over £25.00

**Revision of soiling fee**

- 4.8 A request was received from the Independent Taxi Driver Association requesting that the fee for soiling a Hackney Carriage be increased from £20.00 to £40.00 ([Appendix 2](#)).
- 4.9 The purpose of the soiling fee is to cover the cost of valet and loss of earnings should a passenger soil a hackney carriage during the hiring of the said vehicle, which renders the vehicle unsuitable for public hire. It is important that any bodily fluids are removed properly and thoroughly before any further hiring of the vehicle.
- 4.10 The cost of a professional valet is approximately £35.00 and the current set soiling fee does not cover this.

- 4.11 This item was discussed at the Taxi Liaison Group on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2007 and the relevant extract from the minutes is attached at Appendix 3.
- 4.12 At an earlier meeting of the Taxi Liaison Group it was established that collection of this fee is a civil matter, with this in mind the taxi trade were asked to suggest a figure that could be reasonably charged, which would not render collection difficult.
- 4.13 At the Taxi Liaison Group on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2007, it was agreed that a figure of £50.00 was reasonable, which takes into account the cost of a professional valet and would include approximately £15.00 for loss of earnings.
- 4.14 It is noted that £15.00 does not fully cover loss of earnings, however, to set the figure too high creates a risk of rendering collection difficult.

**Further review of the current table of fares for hackney carriages – distance and waiting time with regard to the extra charges**

- 4.15 The Committee are requested to determine further updates with regard to the extra charges as follows:-
- 4.16 Under Extra Charges: For hiring between midnight and 6:00am and on Sundays and Statutory Holidays (except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day): + 50% of mileage charge (Tariff 2)
- 4.17 The Committee are requested to determine whether it is appropriate to include 'and on Sundays'. Applying extra charges on Sundays is not common practice nationally and on speaking to the Taxi Trade within Rossendale they do not appear to increase the fees on Sundays
- 4.18 The Committee is further requested to review and determine the time stated for extra charges to: For hiring between 2.00am and 6:00am.
- 4.19 It is believed that promoting lower fares after midnight will reduce the risk of people leaving public houses and night clubs (for example) alone and by foot and encourage the public to use hackney carriages to get home safely.
- 4.20 On consultation with the Taxi Trade it is noted that few drivers apply tariff 2 after midnight and application of the tariff is left to the discretion of individual drivers.
- 4.21 Appendix 7 has been supplied for information to show how these changes would affect the current table of fares.

**5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES**

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications.

**6. COMMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF REGULATORY SERVICES**

- 6.1 The recommendations are within the powers of the Council.

## **7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

7.1 There are no direct Human Resource implications.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

8.1 To increase the flag tariff on the taximeter to £2.50 would benefit the employers of Hackney Carriage drivers who have to consider the overall running costs of their business.

8.2 An increase to £2.50 for the flag tariff on the taximeter is considered reasonable when compared to hackney carriage fares nationally.

8.3 Increasing the flag tariff on the taximeter to £2.50 would impact on the 'employed' Hackney Carriage driver's who are often paid £2.50 by the hirer and use the 20p tip to top up their earnings

8.4 To increase the soiling fee is a reasonable request and would benefit both the Hackney Carriage driver's and their employers

8.5 A review of the extra charges on Sundays and the current times tariff 2 comes into force would benefit the Rossendale people, promote Rossendale as a place to live and visit and be in the interest of public safety

8.6 The review of the extra charges would have a minimal effect on the taxi trade as very few drivers currently apply tariff 2 after midnight and on Sundays

## **9. RECOMMENDATION**

9.1 That the Committee considers the Taxi Trade's request to increase the tariff 1 flag to £2.50 for the first mile.

9.2 That the soiling fee is increased to £50.00.

9.3 That the extra charges within the 'Table of Fare' are reviewed.

9.4 That any changes be implemented by 26<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

## **10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

10.1 Taxi Association

10.2 Private hire and Taxi Monthly

10.3 Employed Hackney Carriage Drivers

10.4 Licensing Unit

## **11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required No

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached No

<b>Contact Officer</b>	
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Position	Licensing Manager
Service / Team	Legal and Democratic Services
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### **Appendix Contents**

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# Rossendale Taxi Association.



To the licensing unit of Rossendale Council:

Rossendale Taxi Association would like for the following items of our agenda to be taken into account for the next meeting.

1. **Could we please have a fixed monthly price for the license of £16 if the vehicle does not have 12 months to run?**

During a recent thought in the licensing offices a change was made to the price of a vehicle license. Previously if the vehicle was being licensed but only had 6 months left to carry out on its age, a verbal understanding with the council was the charge would be at the rate of £16 a month not the full £200 12 month charge. This was working very well and the Trade had no complaints until the licensing Manager decided to make alterations so we were charged £200 for 3/6/9/or 12 months.

2. **We would like to ask the age of a minibus please be granted at 7 years 365 days till the current 9 years 365 days.**

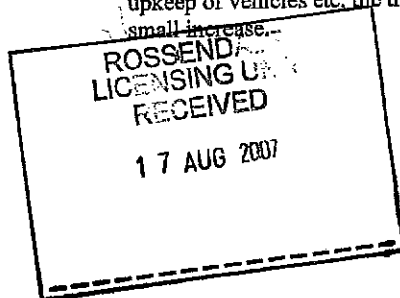
At the moment the age of a minibus to be granted license is the same as a car which the committee helpfully granted a few years back, it has to be licensed before its 6th year from first registration.

As a car run's till its 8<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, which is a period of 2 years, a Minibus can run till its 10<sup>th</sup> which is a period of 4 years.

Due to recent changes in the licensing rules, minibus's have to be manufactured as so and NOT a converted van. While we take into account this change was made for safety reasons, it has made the price of a minibus to the trade more expensive. Our plan would still see the same age of bus on Rossendale Roads as they still run till there 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary from first registration with the same 6 monthly rigorous MOT test's but we would be able to bring them on at 8 years of age and run them for there last 2 years, same as the car.

3. **We would like the minimum fare to be revised to £2.50 for the first mile.**

Unfortunately due to constant rising charges to the trade with fuel, insurance, upkeep of vehicles etc. the trade would like to ask the minimum charge have a small increase.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "G. E. G. G."

Ewan Burnett

**Independent taxi drivers association**

As discussed please accept our formal request to be recognised as a new association representing the taxi drivers of Rossendale, I have enclosed a copy of the list of members which have shown an interest in forming the above named association to represent them in communications with the licensing department.

The initial contact details for which are  
Mr D Lawrie, 286 Newchurch rd Stacksteads Bacup Lancs OL13 0UJ  
01706870077, 07958590681.

A vice chairperson has yet to be elected details of which will follow in the near future.

I am also formerly requesting at this time that the soiling charge currently set at £20 be increased to £40 as we feel that this is a much more reasonable figure when considering the costs and the loss of earnings incurred for driver and vehicle alike by such behaviour.

Having checked the league tables in the taxi and private hire monthly for this charge in other boroughs, the soiling charge is not listed, having said this after discussions with members, we are certain that £20 is too low.

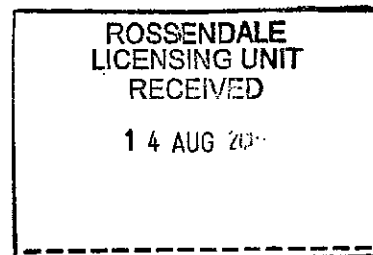
We do however take into consideration your concerns in relation to the difficulty in the collection of this increased amount, but we have concluded that this would act more as a deterrent for the public than the current amount.

We also feel that it will prove to be no more difficult to collect £40 than it is already to collect £20 but we do feel that the increase would create a more reasonable amount to request from passengers.

*Yours Sincerely*



*David LAWRIE*





### **Appendix 3**

**Relevant Extracts: Minutes of the Taxi Trade meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at 10am at the Council Chamber, Hardman's Mill**

#### **7. Fares Increase request update**

JB advised that they would like the initial charge of £2.30 increased to £2.50. The association advised that they do not wish for the running costs to be looked at.

TB enquired as to the number of drivers approached about the increase who are in favour of it.

JB advised that 119 people had been asked and 119 people were in favour of the increase.

TB advised the group that 12 drivers had provided information that they do not support the fares increase as clients would normally pay £2.50 anyway and the increase would then result in the loss of the 20p tip to the driver.

JB advised that the extra 20p is required for running costs.

#### **8. Soiling Charge update**

DL presented his request to have the soiling charge increased to £40. A discussion on this took place and comments from previous meetings were re-iterated. TB suggested that a realistic recoverable amount would be £50.

JB and RB advised that they would be happy with the charge of £50. JB and RB also stated that soiling was a rare occurrence. RB advised that it amounted to approximately once or twice a year per car.

#### **Resolved:**

**The soiling charge increase request to be presented to the licensing committee with a recommendation that the fee be set at £50**

## **Appendix 4**

### **Current Table of fares for hackney carriages – distance and waiting time**

The following scale for Hackney Carriage Fares within the Borough was adopted by Rossendale Borough Council on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2005 and comes into operation on the 23 January 2006.

#### **Mileage**

For the first 1609 metres or part thereof (1 <sup>st</sup> mile)	<b>£2.30</b>
For each subsequent 321.8 metres (or part thereof)	<b>34p</b>

#### **Waiting Time**

For each period of one minute or uncompleted part thereof	<b>20p</b>
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#### **Extra Charges**

For hiring between midnight and 6:00am and on Sundays and Statutory Holidays (except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day)	<b>+ 50% of mileage charge</b>
For hiring after 6:00pm on Christmas Eve; on Christmas Day and after 6:00pm on New Year's Eve and on New Year's Day	<b>+ 100% of mileage charge</b>
For each article of luggage conveyed outside the passenger compartment of the carriage	<b>10p</b>
For each person in excess of one conveyed	<b>10p</b>
For the soiling of the vehicle so as to necessitate valet	<b>£20.00</b>

#### **VAT is included in the above fares**

## Appendix 5

### Proposed Table of fares for hackney carriages – distance and waiting time

#### Mileage

For the first 1609 metres or part thereof (1<sup>st</sup> mile) (FLAG) £2.50

For each subsequent 321.8 metres (or part thereof) 34p

#### Waiting Time

For each period of one minute or uncompleted part thereof 20p

#### Extra Charges

For hiring between midnight and 6:00am and on Sundays and Statutory Holidays\* (FLAG) £3.45

For hiring between midnight and 6:00am and on Sundays and Statutory Holidays\* + 50% of mileage charge\*\*

For hiring after 6:00pm on Christmas Eve; on Christmas Day and after 6:00pm on New Year's Eve and on New Year's Day (FLAG) £5.00

For hiring after 6:00pm on Christmas Eve; on Christmas Day and after 6:00pm on New Year's Eve and on New Year's Day + 100% of mileage charge\*\*\*

For each article of luggage conveyed outside the passenger compartment of the carriage 10p

For each person in excess of one conveyed 10p

For the soiling of the vehicle so as to necessitate valet £20.00

#### VAT is included in the above fares

\* Except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

\*\* For each subsequent 321.8 metres (or part thereof) 51p

\*\*\* For each subsequent 321.8 metres (or part thereof) 68p

## Appendix 6

### Proposed Table of fares for hackney carriages – distance and waiting time including new soiling charge

#### Mileage

For the first 1609 metres or part thereof (1 <sup>st</sup> mile)	(FLAG) £2.50
For each subsequent 321.8 metres (or part thereof)	34p

#### Waiting Time

For each period of one minute or uncompleted part thereof	20p
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#### Extra Charges

For hiring between midnight and 6:00am and on Sundays and Statutory Holidays*	(FLAG) £3.45
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For hiring between midnight and 6:00am and on Sundays and Statutory Holidays*	+ 50% of mileage charge**
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For hiring after 6:00pm on Christmas Eve; on Christmas Day and after 6:00pm on New Year's Eve and on New Year's Day	(FLAG) £5.00
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For hiring after 6:00pm on Christmas Eve; on Christmas Day and after 6:00pm on New Year's Eve and on New Year's Day	+ 100% of mileage charge***
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For each article of luggage conveyed outside the passenger compartment of the carriage	10p
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For each person in excess of one conveyed	10p
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For the soiling of the vehicle so as to necessitate valet	<u>£50.00</u>
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#### VAT is included in the above fares

\* Except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

** For each subsequent 321.8 metres (or part thereof)	51p
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*** For each subsequent 321.8 metres (or part thereof)	68p
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## Appendix 7

### Proposed Table of fares for hackney carriages – distance and waiting time including new soiling charge and changes to extra charges

#### Mileage

For the first 1609 metres or part thereof (1 <sup>st</sup> mile)	(FLAG) £2.50
For each subsequent 321.8 metres (or part thereof)	34p

#### Waiting Time

For each period of one minute or uncompleted part thereof	20p
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#### Extra Charges

For hiring between 2.00am and 6:00am and Statutory Holidays*	(FLAG) £3.45
For hiring between 2.00am and 6:00am and Statutory Holidays*	+ 50% of mileage charge**
For hiring after 6:00pm on Christmas Eve; on Christmas Day and after 6:00pm on New Year's Eve and on New Year's Day	(FLAG) £5.00
For hiring after 6:00pm on Christmas Eve; on Christmas Day and after 6:00pm on New Year's Eve and on New Year's Day	+ 100% of mileage charge***
For each article of luggage conveyed outside the passenger compartment of the carriage	10p
For each person in excess of one conveyed	10p
For the soiling of the vehicle so as to necessitate valet	<u>£50.00</u>

#### VAT is included in the above fares

* Except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day	
** For each subsequent 321.8 metres (or part thereof)	51p
*** For each subsequent 321.8 metres (or part thereof)	68p

## Appendix 8

The taxi trade is not requesting any changes on tariff 2 fares. The details below are for information only:-

	<u>TARIFF 2 – Midnight to 6.00am (per mile)</u>					
	<b>FLAG</b>	<b>ONE</b>	<b>TWO</b>	<b>FIVE</b>	<b>TEN</b>	<b>RUNNING</b>
<b>RBC</b>	£3.45	£3.45	£6.00	£13.65	£26.40	£2.55
<b>AVERAGE</b>	£3.08	£4.12	£6.15	£12.26	£22.52	£2.03
<b>COMPARISON</b>	<b>+£0.37</b>	<b>-£0.67</b>	<b>-£0.15</b>	<b>+£1.39</b>	<b>+£3.88</b>	<b>+£0.52</b>

### TARIFF TWO 2 MILE FARES

- 364 (96%) of all T2 fares are at/better than £4.50
- 207 (55%) of all councils set 2 mile fares at / or over £6.00
- 311 (82%) of all councils set 2 mile fares at / or over £5.20
- 317 (84%) of all councils set 2 mile fares BETTER than £5.00
- **327 (87%) of all councils set 2 mile fares at / or over £5.00**
- 86 (23 %) of councils now set 2 mile fares at / or over £7.00
- 2 councils now set fares at / or over £10.00

### TARIFF TWO 5 MILE FARES

- 373 (99%) of all T1 fares are at/better than £8.00
- 180 (48%) of all councils set 5 mile fares at / or over £12.00
- 306 (81%) of all councils set 5 mile fares at / or over £10.00
- 327 (87%) of all councils set 5 mile fares BETTER than £9.50
- **349 (92%) of all councils set 5 mile fares at / or over £9.00**
- 101 (27%) of councils now set 5 mile fares at / or over £14.00
- 3 councils now set fares at / or over £20.00

### TARIFF TWO 10 MILE FARES

- 367 (97%) of all T1 fares are at/better than £15.00
- 199 (53%) of all councils set 10 mile fares at / or over £21.00
- 304 (80%) of all councils set 10 mile fares at / or over £18.00
- 323 (85%) of all councils set 10 mile fares BETTER than £17.00
- **351 (93%) of all councils set 10 mile fares at / or over £16.00**
- 122 (33%) of councils now set 10 mile fares at / or over £25.00
- 3 councils now set fares at / or over £45.00