

North Tyneside Council

Report to Regulation and Review Committee

Date: 24 January 2017

ITEM 6

Title: Hackney
Carriage Fare Review
2016

Report from Service Area: Environment, Housing and Leisure

Report Authors: Colin MacDonald
Senior Manager, Technical & Regulatory Services Tel: (0191) 643 6620

Joanne Lee, Public Protection Manager Tel: (0191) 643 6901

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the report is to ask Committee to consider objections that have been received to the advertisement of the variation of the table of fares for Hackney Carriages.

1.2 Recommendations

Committee is recommended to consider the objections received and decide whether to proceed with the revised fares as advertised or to retain the existing fare table.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 Background

2.1.1 The Authority conducts an annual review of Hackney Carriage fares each year in accordance with the North Tyneside Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

2.1.2 North Tyneside Hackney Carriage Association (NTHCA) had submitted a request that the Authority review its current table of fares for Hackney Carriages as follows:

Tariff One

Reduce the yardage from 187.8 yards or part thereof to 178.9 yards or part thereof.

Tariff Two

Reduce the yardage from 160.5 yards or part thereof to 152.9 yards or part thereof.

The soiling of carriage charge to be increased from the current charge of £80 to £100.

The NTHCA advised the following: 'Request to increase Soiling Charge is made to cover the increase in valeting charges and to compensate loss of earnings as vehicle is off the road for a minimum of 2 days.'

- 2.1.3 At its meeting on 29 November 2016, Regulation and Review Committee approved the variation of fares.
- 2.1.4 In accordance with the legislation a Notice was placed in The Journal dated Friday 2 December 2016 advising of the variation of the fares. The Notice advised that any objections to the variation of fees were to be received by the Authority by Friday 16 December 2016. A copy of this notice is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.1.5 Within the prescribed period 7 objections were received from Hackney Carriage drivers. A copy of the objections are attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 2.1.6 As objections have been received the matter has now been referred back to Committee for consideration.

3.0 Decision Options

Committee is requested to consider the following options:

3.1 Option 1

Giving consideration to the objections received not to proceed with the revised fares as advertised and to retain the existing fare table, and to set a date for the fares to come into force.

3.2 Option 2

Giving consideration to the objections received to proceed with the revised fares as advertised and to set a date for the fares to come into force.

4.0 Appendices:

- 4.1 Appendix 1 - Newspaper notice dated 2nd December 2016
Appendix 2 – Objections received (7)

5.0 Contact Officers:

- 5.1 Colin MacDonald, Senior Manager, Technical & Regulatory Services, Tel: 0191 643 6620
Joanne Lee, Public Protection Manager, Tel: 0191 643 6901
Alan Burnett, Principal Trading Standards & Licensing Officer, Tel: 0191 643 6621

6.0 Background Information:

- 6.1 The following background papers have been used in the compilation of this report and are available for inspection at the offices of the author of the report.

1. Licensing Committee resolution LQ19/10/01 agreeing the use of the formula
2. AA current table of motoring costs
3. Office for National Statistics - average earnings data
4. Formula calculation
5. North Tyneside Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
6. Regulation and Review Committee report 29 November 2016.

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and Other Resources:

There are no financial implications for the Authority arising directly from this report. Costs associated with the development of regulatory option proposals are met from existing budgets.

2.2 Legal

Chapter 5 North Tyneside Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy sets out the procedure for setting and reviewing Hackney Carriage fares.

North Tyneside Council may fix or vary a table of fares for Hackney Carriages by virtue of Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

If the Committee decides to vary the table of fares for Hackney Carriages, the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 requires that the Authority must place a notice in at least one local newspaper setting out the variation in the table of fares and allowing a period of at least 14 days within which objections to the variation can be made.

Paragraph 5.2.3 North Tyneside Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy prescribes that Notices are to be published in the Evening Chronicle or similar newspaper.

In the event of the receipt of any objections during the 14 day period these would be considered by the Committee at a further meeting before a final decision was made in respect of any fare. At that meeting the Committee would be required to set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified period of 14 days on which the table of fares shall come into force with or without modifications as decided after consideration of the objections.

If no objections were received the variation would take effect following the expiry of the 14 days notice period.

2.3 Consultation/Community Engagement:

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 requires that the Authority must place a notice in at least one local newspaper setting out the variation in the table of fares and allowing a period of at least 14 days within which objections to the variation can be made.

2.4 Human Rights:

There are no human rights issues arising directly arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and Diversity:

There are no equality and diversity implications arising directly from this report. Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as part of the development of regulatory option proposals.

2.6 Risk Management:

There are no significant risk management implications to the Authority arising directly from this report.

2.7 Crime and Disorder:

It is not considered that there are any crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.

2.8 Environment and Sustainability:

It is not considered that there are any environment and sustainability implications arising directly from this report.



North Tyneside Council
 The Killingworth Site
 Harvey Combe
 Killingworth
 Newcastle upon Tyne
 NE12 6UB

In accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, North Tyneside Council hereby give notice that it intends to vary its table of fares for Hackney Carriages as set out below.

Any person wishing to object to the variation must do so in writing to the Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure, Licensing, The Killingworth Site, Killingworth, NE12 6UB within 14 days from the date of this notice.

TARIFF ONE

- | | |
|--|-------|
| (i) For the first 178.9 yards or 44.5 seconds (or part thereof) | £1.60 |
| (ii) For each subsequent 178.9 yards or 44.5 seconds (or part thereof) | .20 |

TARIFF TWO

For hirings between 10.00pm and 07.00am, and all day Sundays, Bank Holidays and on December 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st in each year:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| (i) For the first 152.9 yards or 42.5 seconds (or part thereof) | £2.40 |
| (ii) For each subsequent 152.9 yards or 42.5 seconds (or part thereof) | .20 |

EXTRA CHARGES

Charge for soiling carriage	£100.00
For each person in excess of two	.40
For each item of hand luggage carried outside the carriage	.40
For each dog or animal (guide and/or hearing dogs exempt)	£2.00
For each bicycle	£3.00
For each perambulator	.50

Any tunnel, bridge or road tolls to and from the destination

2 December 2016 Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure

Address:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date: 12/12/16

Plate No:

[REDACTED]

I [REDACTED] undersigned, am writing to object to the proposed Hackney carriage fare increase in North Tyneside.

For the following reasons:

1. Fuel prices are down
2. Insurance has reduced
3. Competitiveness

There are 204 Hackney Carriages licensed in North Tyneside and upwards of 1600 Private hire, who manage on a significantly lower rate than we charge now.

What do we offer the travelling public to make us worth more?

With the advent of Uber and ever increasing numbers of PH, TV & radio ad campaigns by the larger companies, Social media and App booking technology the Hackney carriage trade cannot reasonably ask a higher price for the same service.

Signed:

[REDACTED]

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL
Consumer Protection Group Admin
14 DEC 2016
REFER TO:
FILE REF:

Address: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date: 12.12.16 Plate No: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the undersigned, am writing to object to the proposed Hackney carriage fare increase in North Tyneside.

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Signed: [REDACTED]

NORTH TYNE SIDE COUNCIL
Consumer Protection Group Admin
14 DEC 2016
REFER TO:
FILE REF:

Address:

[Redacted address lines]

Date: 10. 12. 16

Plate No:

[Redacted plate number]

[Redacted name]

..., the undersigned, am writing to object to the proposed Hackney carriage fare increase in North Tyneside.

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Signed: [Redacted signature]

FILE REF:
REFER TO:
14 DEC 2016
Consumer Protection Group Admin
NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL

Address:

[Redacted address]

Date: 12.12.16

Plate No:

[Redacted plate number]

I, [Redacted], the undersigned, am writing to object to the proposed Hackney carriage fare increase in North Tyneside.

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Signed:

[Redacted signature]

*For all the above reasons
very difficult times.*

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL	
Consumer Protection	Admin
14 DEC 2016	
REFER TO:	
FILE REF:	

Address:

[Redacted address]

Date: 10/14/16

Plate No:

[Redacted plate number]

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL	11 DEC 2016
CO. CLERK: THERESA GIBSON	
NUMBER TO:	
FILE REF:	

I, [Redacted], undersigned, am writing to object to the proposed Hackney carriage fare increase in North Tyneside.

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Signed:

[Redacted signature]

MR R SNEDDON & HIS ASSOCIATION OF 16 HACKNEY DRIVERS
 DO NOT & CANNOT SPEAK FOR THE REST OF THE HACKNEY CARRIAGES
 IN NORTH TYNESIDE. IF HIS PROPOSED INCREASE GOES AHEAD
 IT WILL KILL OFF THE TRADE IN MORE THAN ONE NAT.
 IF MR SNEDDON WANTS A RISE IN THE TARRIERS I SUGGEST HE
 COME & SIT ON ANY TAXI RANK & HE WILL SEE HOW DIFFICULT IT IS
 TO MAKE A LIVING ON THE CURRENT TARRIERS WITHOUT HIS
 PROPOSED INCREASE.

Address:



Date: 10/12/16

Plate No:



I, [redacted] the undersigned, am writing to object to the proposed Hackney carriage fare increase in North Tyneside.

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Signed:



NORTH TYNEBIDE COUNCIL
Consumer Protection Group Admin
14 DEC 2016
REFER TO:
FILE REF:

Address:

[REDACTED ADDRESS]

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL
Consumer Protection Group Admin
13 DEC 2016
REFER TO:
FILE REF:

Date: 10-12-16

Plate No:

[REDACTED PLATE NO.]

I, [REDACTED], the undersigned, am writing to object to the proposed Hackney carriage fare increase in North Tyneside.

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Signed:

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

THE NTHCA HAS BETWEEN 16 AND 18 MEMBERS
HALF OF WHICH WORK FROM BLUELINE OR EASTCOAST
PRIVATE HIRE COMPANIES, CHARGING A SIGNIFICANTLY
LOWER RATE THAN THAT CHARGED BY HACKNEY CARRIAGES
IN NORTH TYNESIDE.

THE OTHER HALF CHOOSE ONLY TO WORK AT WEEKENDS,
BANK HOLIDAYS AND CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR.

HOW THESE PEOPLE CAN SIT IN BACKWORTH CLUB,
DRINKING BEER, AND DECIDE WHAT THE OTHER 180
HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS CAN OR WILL CHARGE IS
BEYOND ME.

FARE INCREASES SHOULD NOT BE DECIDED IN THIS WAY