

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING & APPEALS COMMITTEE

14 December 2021

Report of the Director of Central Services and Deputy Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Delegated

1 REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

1.1 Background

1.1.1 In accordance with our commitment to review the maximum fares on an annual basis (agreed by this Committee on 21 September 2010), this report invites Members to consider whether any increase in the maximum fares is appropriate.

1.1.2 Members may recall the last increase was authorised for 19 May 2017.

1.1.3 The current maximum fares are attached at **Annex 1**.

1.2 Requirement to set fees

1.2.1 The Council is empowered to set maximum hackney carriage fares. It is important to note that these are the maximum fares that may be charged, and indeed it is an offence to charge more than the fare shown on the meter. No driver is required to charge the maximum fares and indeed many accept a lower rate. These fares do not apply to private hire work (journeys which are pre-booked) or to journeys which extend outside the Borough, although in the latter case an agreement to pay more than the metered fare must be made in advance of the hiring commencing.

1.3 Consultation with the Trade

1.3.1 Licensing Services received a formal request for Fare Increase from Castle Cars on the 2 November 2021, following discussions with Members and Drivers at a meeting held in the Council Chamber on the 2 November 2021.

1.3.2 Licensing Services wrote out to all Hackney Carriage Drivers, Dual Drivers and Hackney Carriage Proprietors and asked them to give their views using an on-line feedback survey via Microsoft Teams

1.3.3 The Licensing Team received 88 replies.

Hackney Carriage Drivers, Dual Drivers and Hackney Carriage Proprietors Licence holders	replies	%
380	88	23%

1.3.4 In answer to the question of whether drivers wanted a fare increase

Reply	replies	%
Yes	82	93%
No	6	7%

1.4 Fuel costs

1.4.1 When determining the level of fares, paragraph 6.1.2 of our Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing policy provides that consideration will be given as to what it is reasonable to expect the travelling public to pay as well as the need to give drivers an incentive to provide a cost-effective service at the times it is needed.

1.4.2 A key cost for the taxi trade is the price of fuel.

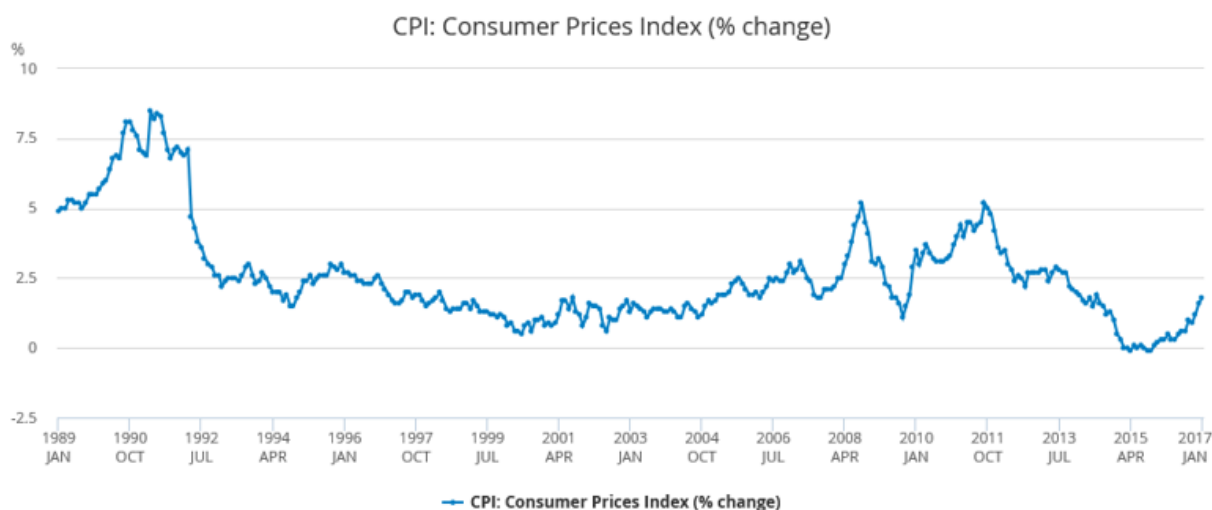
Year	Month	Motor spirit: 4 star / LRP (Pence per litre) [Note 1]	Motor spirit: Super unleaded (Pence per litre) [Note 1]	Motor spirit: Premium unleaded (Pence per litre) [Note 1, 2]	Derv (Pence per litre) [Note 1, 2]	Standard grade burning oil (Pence per litre) [Note 1]
2021	March	..	137.10	124.04	128.11	39.01
2021	April	..	138.42	125.47	129.22	41.25
2021	May	..	140.54	127.31	130.93	39.53
2021	June	..	142.55	129.32	132.91	39.91
2021	July	..	146.88	132.74	135.37	41.72
2021	August	..	148.00	134.52	136.92	39.77
2021	September	..	147.85	134.59	136.84	41.48
2021	October	139.46	143.19	..

[table 411 413.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)

1.4.3 Consumer Price Indices

Consumer Price Indices,

1.4.3 The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) annual inflation stands at 1.6 per cent in January 2017.



[CPIH ANNUAL RATE 00: ALL ITEMS 2015=100 - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/cpi/cpih/cpih-annual-rate-00-all-items-2015=100)

1.4.4 Current comparison with Kent Authorities

Region	2 Miles
Ashford	£6.50
Canterbury	£6.40
Dartford	£7.10 ③
Dover	£7.10 ③
Folkstone & Hythe	£6.20
Gravesham	£6.80
Maidstone	£7.40 ①
Medway	£6.60
Sevenoaks	£7.06
Swale	£6.80
Thanet	£5.40
Tonbridge and Malling	£7.00
Tunbridge Wells	£7.20 ②

1.4.5 Proposed Fare Increases

	Current	Proposal 1
FLAG	£3.00 (up to .50 of a mile / FLAG (880 yards))	£3.40 (up to .50 of a mile / FLAG (880 yards))
each subsequent 155 yards	£0.20 (each subsequent 135 yards)	£0.20 (each subsequent 135 yards)
1 Mile	£4.40	£4.80
2 Mile	£7.00	£7.40
Waiting Time (For each period of 20 seconds or part thereof)	£0.20 for every 30 seconds	£0.20 for every 30 seconds
Extra Charges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> at any time on a bank or public holiday except Christmas Day between 18:00 and 24:00 hours on Christmas Eve between 18:00 and 24:00 hours on New Year's Eve Easter Sunday 	50% of the above rate of fare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For hiring beginning between 00:00 hours and 06:00 on any day 	50% of the above rate of fare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For hiring beginning between 23:30 hours and 06:00 on any day
For hiring beginning at any time on Christmas Day	100% of the above rate of fare	100% of the above rate of fare
For hiring's on Saturdays & Sundays per fare beginning between 06:00 hours and 24:00 hours.	£0.50 surcharge on each fare	£0.50 surcharge on each fare
For the carriage of more than four passengers up to the maximum capacity of the carriage	50% of the above rate of fare	50% of the above rate of fare
Vehicle spoilage charge	£100.00	£100.00
Congestion charges, tolls and car parking	Congestion charges, tolls and car parking incurred during hiring Any charges(s) detailed above, incurred as a result of a passenger's instruction may be added to the fare.	Congestion charges, tolls and car parking incurred during hiring Any charges(s) detailed above, incurred as a result of a passenger's instruction may be added to the fare.

1.5 Legal Implications

Any proposal to vary the table of fares is subject to consultation. Under the Local Government Act 1976 – Section 65, any fares approved by the Council must be advertised via a public notice in a local newspaper. Any relevant objections received would need to be reported back to Members for consideration.

1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

It should be noted that the tariff is the maximum fare that can be charged, and discounts can be given, should the driver wish.

1.7 Risk Assessment

Approval of a new maximum fare, below the expectation of the hackney carriage trade, may result in dissatisfaction from the trade. Increasing the maximum fare may result in complaints from members of the public.

1.8 Equality Impact Assessment

1.8.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.9 Recommendations

1.9.1 Members are invited to consider increasing the Hackney Carriage Fares as detailed in section 1.4.5 of the report.

1.9.2 In the event that Members are minded to approve an increase in the maximum fares, it is recommended that any change take effect from 3 January 2022 to allow for the statutory public consultation period. If any relevant objections are received during the period, these objections will be reported to the Committee so that Members may consider whether to proceed with the proposed increase.

Background papers:

contact: Anthony Garnett

Nil

Adrian Stanfield

Director of Central Services and Deputy Chief Executive