

**Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-nedd**

**Democratic Services
Gwasanaethau Democrataidd**

Chief Executive: Steven Phillips

Date: 6 September 2017

Dear Member

**REGISTRATION AND LICENSING COMMITTEE - MONDAY, 11TH
SEPTEMBER, 2017**

Please find attached the following addendum reports/urgent items for consideration at the next meeting of the **Registration and Licensing Committee - Monday, 11th September, 2017.**

Item

- a) **Taxi Fare Increase Request** (Pages 3 - 26)

Yours sincerely

Nicola Headon

p.p. Chief Executive

Encs

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NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Registration and Licensing Committee

11th September 2017

Report of the Head of Legal Services – David Michael

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All

Hackney Carriage Fare Increase

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide information to members in respect of a request to increase the maximum permitted fare level which a hackney carriage may charge.
2. To discuss members views on whether an increase in appropriate.

Executive Summary

3. To provide information to members in respect of a request to increase the maximum permitted fare level which a hackney carriage may charge.
4. The decision on whether to increase the maximum fare level is an Executive function and therefore cannot be made by the Registration and Licensing Committee.
5. The Registration and Licensing Committee are therefore being asked to consider the request and provide their views on whether the maximum fare level should be increased.

Background

6. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows the Council to set a maximum fare for hackney carriages.
7. The fare applies to distance, time and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle.
8. The Council has already set a maximum permitted fare, and has published a table of fares, which is displayed in all hackney carriage vehicles. The current table of fares, last amended on the 1st May 2011, is attached at appendix 1.
9. The Neath Port Talbot Proprietors Association has submitted proposals for an increase to the maximum fare level; these proposals are attached at appendix 2.
10. The request is to consider increasing the maximum fare that can be made. Hackney carriage proprietors do not have to set the fare at the maximum level, but most do.
11. The setting of fares under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 is an Executive function, and therefore any decision to amend the maximum permitted fare must be an executive decision.
12. The Registration and Licensing Committee are therefore being asked to consider the request, and to provide their views on whether the maximum fare level should be increased.

Officer Report

13. When considering whether an increase in the maximum fare level is justified. It is suggested that the following cost factors are taken into consideration:
 - Petrol/diesel prices
 - Insurance costs
 - Licence fee costs
 - Inflation

14. Petrol / Diesel Prices - in May 2011 the average U.K cost of unleaded petrol was £136.7p and diesel £141.5p. The current prices of unleaded and diesel are £114.7p and 115.4p respectively. This represents a 16% reduction in the cost of unleaded petrol and an 18% reduction in the cost of diesel.
15. Insurance costs - enquiries with a local insurance broker revealed that in 2011 a new single vehicle insurance policy for a new driver would have cost approximately £2000. The same insurance policy in 2017 would cost approximately £3200; a 60% increase.
16. Licence fee costs - Licence fees payable to the Council in respect of proprietors licences i.e. vehicle fees, have not changed since 2011.
17. Inflation - the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is the official measure of inflation of consumer prices of the United Kingdom.; there has been an 11.2% rise since 2011.
18. A consultation exercise has been carried out with the hackney carriage proprietors. The consultation resulted in 13 responses being received; these are attached at appendix 3.
19. 5 responses were opposed to any increase, 5 were in favour of the increase and 3 presented their own proposals for an increase.

Equality Impact Assessment

20. Not applicable

Legal Impacts

21. Not applicable

Risk Management

22. Not applicable

Consultation

23. A consultation exercise has taken place with the hackney carriage proprietors.

24. Where a decision is taken by the Executive to increase the maximum fare, the proposed increase must be advertised on one occasion in a local newspaper for a period of at least 14 days; any objections must then be considered before the increase can become effective.

Recommendation

25. That members consider the request and provide their views on whether an increase to the maximum fare level is appropriate.

Implementation of Decision

26. A report will be provided to the Executive for determination.

Appendices

27. Appendix 1 - Existing NPTCBC table of fares
28. Appendix 2 - Neath Port Talbot Proprietors Association request for a fare increase.
29. Appendix 3 - Consultation responses.

List of Background Papers

None

Officer Contact

Neil Chapple
Licensing Manager
Tel (01639) 763056
Email n.chapple@npt.gov.uk



Neath Port Talbot
Castell-nedd Port Talbot

County Borough Council Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

FARE TARIFF EFFECTIVE FROM 1st May 2011

First Tariff

For the first 7/10 mile or part thereof	£2.40
For each subsequent 1/10 mile or part thereof	0.20
Waiting time per 30 seconds	0.12
Minimum charge for hiring	2.40

Second Tariff

For the first 6/10 mile or part thereof	£3.00
For each subsequent 1/10 mile or part thereof	0.23
Waiting time per 30 seconds	0.12
Minimum charge for hiring	3.00

Note - The second tariff applies to journeys commenced:

- 1 Between 11.00pm and 7.00am on any day
- 2 On Sundays and Bank Holidays
- 3 From 6.00pm on Xmas Eve & New Years Eve

Tariff 3

100% surcharge on Tariff 1 – Xmas Day & New Years Day only.

Extra Charges

- 1 For each passenger exceeding four-.50p per passenger
- 2 Soiling of Vehicle-£100.00 maximum.

Complaints regarding fares, vehicles or drivers should be made to the Licensing Section, Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ quoting the licence number of the vehicle and the number of the drivers badge. TEL No. 01639 763050

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**Neath Port Talbot Taxi Proprietor
Association**

(NPTPA)



MR Paul Casley

Date: 2 May 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Tariff Increase

I am writing on behalf of the Neath Port Talbot Taxi Proprietors Association, the members would like to request an increase to the Tariff. The last increase was in 2011.

The members have proposed changes are to:

Tariff Start Times

Tariff 1 starts at 6.00am ends at 10.00pm

Tariff 2 starts at 10.00pm ends at 6.00am

Mileage

Tariff 1 £3.00 for the first 7/10 mile or part thereof

Christmas

100% surcharge on Tariff 1 - 24th December 6.00pm to 27th December 6.00 am

New Year

100% surcharge on Tariff 1 - 31st December 6.00pm to 2nd January 6.00 am.

Please see attached table (appendix A) showing the current Fare tariff and the proposed change.

We would appreciate the above proposed changes are considered. If the above proposal is not acceptable, I have attached an alternative proposal (appendix B) for consideration.

If you wish to discuss or arrange a meeting please contact me or

Yours faithfully

Paul Casley
Chairperson

*Enc: Appendix A Table of current and proposed Tariff changes
Appendix B Alternative Proposal*

Page 1 of 3

Appendix A

Current Fare Tariff - Port Talbot		Proposed Fare Tariff	
First Tariff		First Tariff	
Starts at 7.00am ends at 11.00pm		* Starts at 6.00am ends at 10.00pm	
Mileage	£2.40 for the first 7/10 mile or part thereof 0.20p for each subsequent 1/10 mile or part thereof	Mileage *	£3.00 for the first 7/10 mile or part thereof 0.20p for each subsequent 1/10 mile or part thereof
Waiting Time	0.12p per 30 seconds	Waiting Time	0.12p per 30 seconds
Soiling Charge	£100 maximum	Soiling Charge	£100 maximum
Minimum Charge for Hiring	£2.40	Minimum Charge for Hiring *	£3.00
Second Tariff		Second Tariff	
Starts at 11.00pm ends at 7.00am <i>(on any day, on Sundays and Bank Holidays)</i>		*Starts at 10.00pm ends at 6.00am <i>(applies every night ,Sundays and Bank Holidays)</i>	
Mileage	£3.00 first 6/10 mile or part thereof 0.23p for each subsequent 1/10 mile or part	Mileage	£3.00 first 6/10 mile or part thereof 0.23p for each subsequent 1/10 mile or part
Waiting Time	0.12p per 30 seconds	Waiting Time	0.12p per 30 seconds
Soiling Charge	£100 maximum	Soiling Charge	£100 maximum
Minimum Charge for Hiring	£3.00	Minimum Charge for Hiring	£3.00
Christmas Tariff		*Christmas Tariff	
100% surcharge on Tariff 1 Xmas Eve from 6.00pm		100% surcharge on Tariff 1 *24th December 6.00pm to 27th December 6.00 am.	
New Year Tariff		*New Year Tariff	
100% surcharge on tariff 1 New Years Eve from 6.00pm		100% surcharge on Tariff 1 *31st December 6.00pm to 2nd January 6.00 am.	
Extra Charges		Extra Charges	
50p per passenger fo reach passenger exceeding four		50p per passenger fo reach passenger exceeding four	

Appendix B

Alternative Proposal - Fare Tariff - Port Talbot	
First Tariff	
Starts at 6.00am ends at 10.00pm	
Mileage	£2.40 for the first 7/10 mile or part thereof 0.20p for each subsequent 1/10 mile or part thereof
Waiting Time *	0.20p per 30 seconds
Soiling Charge	£100 maximum
Minimum Charge for Hiring	£2.40
Second Tariff	
Starts at 10.00pm ends at 6.00am	
Mileage *	£3.00 first 6/10 mile or part thereof 030p for each subsequent 1/10 mile or part thereof
Waiting Time *	0.30p per 30 seconds
Soiling Charge	£100 maximum
Minimum Charge for Hiring	£2.40
*Christmas Tariff	
100% surcharge on Tariff 1 *24th December 6.00pm to 27th December 6.00 am.	
*New Year Tariff	
100% surcharge on Tariff 1 *31st December 6.00pm to 2nd January 6.00 am.	
Extra Charges	
50p per passenger fo reach passenger exceeding four	

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Linda Pitman

From: Edward Vaughan John
Sent: 18 May 2017 20:11
To: Licensing Licensing
Subject: proposed tariff increase

this is to confirm, that i am 100% in disagreement with the said proposed tariff increase.

yours sincerely,
Mr Edward Vaughan John

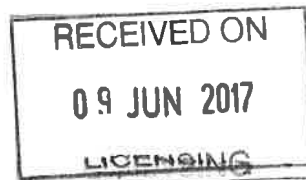
RECEIVED ON
19 MAY 2017
LICENSING

Sonia Campbell

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 June 2017 17:42
To: Licensing Licensing
Subject: Taxi

Hi I would be in favour of a price increase my name is Trevor trott bmp 219 thanks.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.



Linda Pitman

From:
Sent: 24 May 2017 09:17
To: Licensing Licensing
Subject: Nigel jones badge 503 would support proposed a



Linda Pitman

From:
Sent: 21 May 2017 14:55
To: Licensing Licensing
Subject: Fare table

Dear mr Neil Chapple

Thank you for your letter.

I would definitely propose the tariff increase Thanks Miss Mandy wathan

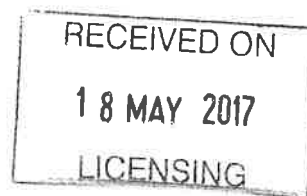


Linda Pitman

From:
Sent: 18 May 2017 16:25
To: Licensing Licensing
Subject: Taxi meter raise

I am in favour of a raise as shown in appendix A as i feel with the rise of inflation and no raise along side it since may 2011 its long overdue also an idea ive had for some time is to eliminate the unnecesary short fares is to put the start meter price at £4-£5 then after the mile the meter reverts back to £3.40 it will deter timewasters out on the rank. I dont onclude elderly people who rely on taxis for short trips but theres far too many kids exploiting the very low starting price because its only £2.40. Hope u find this idea helpful cheers

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy S6 - powered by Three



Linda Pitman

From:
Sent: 18 May 2017 10:32
To: Licensing Licensing
Subject: Fixing of Fares for Hackney Carriages

Hello.

Further to the letter I received today regarding the above, I fully support the new proposed Fare Tariff on appendix A.

Kind regards,

Carl Perera

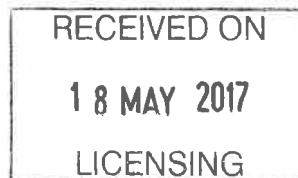


Linda Pitman

From:
Sent: 18 May 2017 13:18
To: Licensing Licensing
Subject: Off marcs taxi

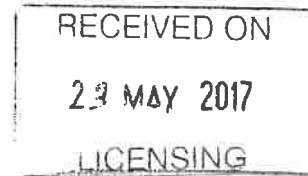
Jest to say don't want new proposed tariff but do want Christmas tariff and for the 50p exceeding 4 passengers maby have a 4th tariff wher the 50p is is already on the metre for example tariff 1 + 50p so it will start on £2.90 so that you don't have to put it on the metre and the customers want think you're ripping them off thanks.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)



Linda Pitman

From:
Sent: 22 May 2017 19:01
To: Licensing Licensing
Subject: Fare Variation



Dear Sir/ Madam

I refer to your letter dated 15 May 2017 regarding a fare variation for hackney carriages.

Tariff Price Rise

I do not agree with the tariff price rise. I feel that increasing the tariff may force current customers to find alternative transport, as the cost of a taxi would be too expensive for them. Many taxi drivers are already struggling to earn a living, due to the fact there are too many licensed hackney carriage drivers, therefore, increasing the tariff would only be a further burden to these drivers.

Tariff Time Change

I do agree to the change in tariff start and end times:

First Tariff - 6.00am to 10.00pm

Second Tariff - 10.00pm to 6.00 am

The change comes in line with Swansea Tariffs .

Christmas & New Year

I agree with the proposal of 100% surcharge on Tariff 1 from:

24 December 6.00pm to 27 December 6.00am

31 December 6.00pm to 2 January 6.00am

Regards

Paul Casley
Caz Cars Taxis

Sara John

From: Neil Chapple
Sent: 26 May 2017 10:28
To: Sara John
Subject: FW: Fare Increase Proposal.

From:
Sent: 25 May 2017 13:35
To: Neil Chapple
Subject: Fare Increase Proposal.

Dear Neil,

Further to your recent letter regarding a proposal for a variation to table of fares for hackney carriages. I request consideration to be given by the licensing authority for my own personal proposal outlined below.

First Tariff £2.40 for first 6/10 mile or part thereof (reduction from 7/10).
0.22p for each subsequent 1/10 mile thereof (increase to current of 2p).
Soiling Charge £100 maximum (to remain as is).
Minimum Charge £2.40.

Second Tariff £3.00 for the first 6/10 mile thereof (to remain as is).
0.25p for each subsequent 1/10 mile thereafter (increase to current of 2p).

Second Tariff to begin from 11pm-7am (to remain as is)

These are my personal proposals only at this point and i do not claim to represent any others in any official capacity but i have been asked to inform the authority that those who have approached me find the proposals you have supplied to us by letter to be slightly outlandish but a fare increase is requested if decided in a logical and sensible manner incorporating the first and second tariff, providing increases to those drivers who work anti-social hours aswell as daytime drivers.

Sincerely

Mike D Allen.



To Licensing Manager
Neil Chapple.

Re. Fixing of Fares. for Hackney
carriages.

As a north Taxi Driver
I think this fare variation
is not right, as we are
struggling for fares now
any increase will put
more people off having taxis
so I would not want this
increase, and leave it
as it is now, not to look
any more work.

MR. D.A. Price.

Linda Pitman

From:
Sent: 18 May 2017 15:53
To: Licensing Licensing
Subject: FYI Sarah Bartle - Licensing Officer

Dear Sarah,

I'm replying to the letter you sent me regarding the proposed Taxi Tariff increases.

First and foremost, whoever proposed this, does not represent the vast majority of owner drivers in Neath Port Talbot. I am led to believe that a meeting was held regarding this increase and attended by half a dozen or so taxi drivers only. Therefore, this proposal is not representative of the majority of taxi driver/operators in the area.

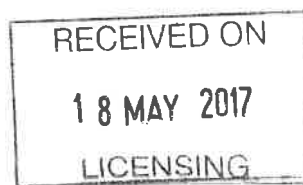
I believe that this proposal should be scrapped for the following reasons:

- 1) There is a public sector pay freeze. The general public just doesn't have the money. Any increase in tariff will drive down trade in the area.
- 2) The people who proposed these changes across all tariffs, do not work those shifts.
- 3) All operators should have a say on any proposal to increase tariffs. These proposals could then be discussed and ironed out if necessary, or indeed rejected. This would also not waste any valuable time on the part of the local authorities.

If you would like me to call down and discuss in person, I'd be happy to do so.

Regards,

Mel Jones
Taibach Taxis



Linda Pitman

From:
Sent: 18 May 2017 18:25
To: Licensing Licensing
Subject: Re : Fixing of Fares for Hackney Carriages

Good Evening

In reply to your recent letter requesting a variation of the fares for hackney carriages I would oppose the proposal .

We are already struggling to get customers at the present fares if they were to increase it would have a detrimental effect on our industry .

There are a lot of companys already cutting the fares as they stand now it makes no sense to increase the fares at the moment

Regards
Rob Williams
Rob's Taxis



Neil Chapple

From:
Sent: 22 May 2017 11:45
To: Neil Chapple
Subject: RE: Taxi tender for Swansea University

Hi Neil

Thank you for your letter re fixing of fares for hackney carriages dated 15-5-17.

As the port Talbot rep for the rmt union we have held a meeting with all members in neath port Talbot and every one voted against this increase.

As the director of baglan cars ltd and ck(port Talbot) ltd. I have held a meeting with all party and it was thought to be out of order at this time to look at a increase.

All the above agree. That this association has so few members with none in neath or pontadawe should not have a strong voice in council. For this has cost council and the trade time and effort .These few greedy people should not have the right to cause the majority to suffer.

I look forward to your reply.

Regards Roy

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

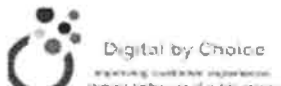
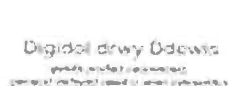
From: [Neil Chapple](#)
Sent: 23 January 2017 14:07
To: _____
Subject: FW: Taxi tender for Swansea University

Neil Chapple
Rheolwr Trwyddedu –Licensing Manager
Trwyddedu / Licensing
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath Port Talbot County
Borough Council
Cyfarwyddiaeth Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol & Cyllid / Finance & Corporate
Services Directorate
Rhif Ffôn / Tel No. 01639 763056

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and will deal with Welsh and English correspondence to the same standards and timescales.
Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymdrin â gohebiaeth Gymraeg a Saesneg i'r un safonau ac amserlenni



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