

Report to: General Purposes Committee Meeting – 2 March 2023
 Director Lead: Matthew Finch, Director – Communities & Environment
 Lead Officer: Nicola Rowlands, Senior Licensing Officer – Public Protection, Extn. 5894

Report Summary	
Report Title	Review of Taxi Fares
Purpose of Report	To update Members of the taxi fare review carried out and for consideration of the results of the consultation.
Recommendations	That Members consider the options set out in the report and identify the preferred option.
Reason for Recommendation	To balance the need of the taxi trade and general taxi users.

1.0 Background

1.1 At the meeting of the General Purposes Committee in September 2022 it was agreed that:

- a) the standard rate (Tariff 1) of £2.90 be increased by £1.00 to £3.90;
- b) the cost of recalibrating the taximeter to £3,90 would be met by the Council; and
- c) a full review of the current taxi fares be undertaken with immediate effect, such review to include all charges, with a report being presented to the March 2023 meeting of the Committee.

1.2 Officers wrote out to all 143 licensed Hackney and Private Hire Drivers and asked the following questions:

- 1) Are you happy with the current rate?
- 2) Would you like to see an increase in the current rate?
- 3) Please give reasons as to your answer to question 2.
- 4) If NSDC were to look at an increase - how would you propose the tariff is increased?
- 5) Any other comments/proposals regarding the rates that you can charge – for example, soiling?
- 6) Any other related comments

- 1.3 Responses were received from 9 drivers and their comments can be found at **Appendix A**. Members will note that there was a limited response and the views on whether there should be an increase were mixed, with some wanting an increase and other suggesting that it was not required. There are a number of comments about the starting time of the evening tariff.
- 1.4 Officers carried out a comparison of Nottinghamshire and other local authorities nearby and the findings can be found in **Appendix B**. For a tariff one journey of two miles the Newark and Sherwood fare is £7.22. Only Nottingham City and Rushcliffe have a higher fare.
- 1.5 The tariff 2 evening fare is set at 1.5 X the daytime tariff. It operates between 23:00hrs and 06:00hrs. For a tariff two journey of two miles the Newark and Sherwood fare is £10.83. This is the highest fare noted in the comparisons with other local authorities.
- 1.6 In September 2022, when committee last looked at the fare review, the price of diesel was approx. £2.00 per litre. At time of writing this report the price of diesel is approx. £167.7 per litre.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

- 2.1 There are a number of options now available to Members.

Option 1 - make no amendments to the current tariff

Option 2 – amend the tariffs. This will require detailed work by officers to balance the flag starting fare, the cost per subsequent miles and the impact on tariffs two and three.

Option 3 – Only amend the starting time of the tariff two (evening tariff) to allow this to be used at an earlier time.

3.0 Implications

- 3.1 In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

3.2 Financial Implications

The cost of the taximeter adjustments will be met by the Hackney Carriage Proprietors at a cost of between £25 and £35 per vehicle. If an amendment to the Fare was agreed the cost of approx. £400 for newspaper advert would need to be taken from existing budget A10814

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.