



Notice of Variation of Hackney Carriage Table of Fares

At the Licensing Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 20th May 2008, the committee approved an increase in the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares subject to the statutory period of advertisement to allow for any objections to be made.

No objections were received therefore the variation as detailed below will come into force with immediate effect.

- **Tariff 1** the fare for the first half-mile or part has been increased to £2.50. Each following 136 yards or part will be 10p which equates to an increase from £1.20 per mile to £1.30 per mile.
- **Tariff 2** the fare for the first half-mile or part has been increased to £2.80. Each following 136 yards or part will be 15p which equates to an increase from £1.80 per mile to £1.94 per mile.
- **Tariff 3** will remain the same at £3.00 for first half mile or part thereof and 20p each following 146 yards or part which equates to £2.40 per mile.
- All other Tariffs and charges remain the same.

Hackney Carriage Proprietors should now make the appropriate arrangements to have their meter changed and tested. A copy of the new table of fares can then be collected from this office on production of a Taximeter Certificate or letter confirming the meter has been changed, tested and sealed.

The Table of Fares is the maximum that Hackney Carriage drivers are able to charge customers, however, they are free to charge less if they wish to do so.

Taxi Trade Meeting

At the Taxi Trade Meeting on Friday 30th May 2008 the following items were discussed:

1. Scrutiny Report

The procedures for Scrutiny Review were outlined and the trade were informed that a Scrutiny Review is going to take place on Transportation Licensing. Meeting to be held 10th June to consider Terms of Reference. Further information to be given out at future trade meetings.

2. Tariff Update

A brief update on the proposed Tariff increase was given. Report has been to committee, six letters proposing different tariffs were received. The Committee went with the Hackney Association proposal. This has been advertised and will be implemented if no objections are received. Once the tariff has changed meters will need to be re calibrated and new tariff cards issued.

3. Insurance Certificates

Separate policies are required for Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles. All proprietors to be written to shortly. It was also highlighted that paper insurance certificates are to be abolished next year.

4. Independent Review of Taxi Licensing

The Association had asked for an independent review of taxi licensing. Officers would like to know if the trade want this and how much should be spent on it? After some discussion it was mentioned that it may be better waiting to see what happened with the Scrutiny Review as this did not cost anything and would look at such things as fee setting and policies.

A report on the policy review on accessibility is on hold at the moment until the Diversity team carryout consultation with disability groups. The consultation is available on the website at www.stockton.gov.uk for the next 4 weeks. Ancillary parts of policy will be sorted out at future committee meetings.

5. High Street Access

An outline on High Street access and what is happening was given by Officers. Bus lanes are difficult to enforce, Police and Bus Operators not happy with taxis having access. Fixed cameras to be placed on bus lanes. Trade asked about fuel subsidy like buses – national consultation taking place and people need to put in their own comments.

6. Other Issues

Door Decals and Internal Comment Cards – permanent type and smaller roof signs – these will be incorporated into the Policy consultation. Trade to write to Officers with any issues for policy consultation.

Concerns were raised about some taxi drivers not properly restraining children in vehicles. This is the drivers responsibility, the table below shows the requirement regarding the wearing of seatbelts by children.

	Front Seat	Rear Seat	Who is Responsible?
Driver	Seat belt must be worn if fitted		Driver
Child under 3 years of age	Correct child restraint must be used	Correct child restraint must be used. If one is not available in a taxi, may travel unrestrained	Driver
Child from 3rd birthday up to 135 cms in height (or 12th birthday whichever they reach first)	Correct child restraint must be used	Correct child restraint must be used where seat belts fitted. Must use adult belt in a rear seat if correct child restraint not available - - in a taxi; - for a short distance in an unexpected necessity; - if two occupied child restraints prevent fitting a third.	Driver
Child 12 or 13, or over 135 cms in height	Seat belt must be worn if fitted	Seat belt must be worn if fitted	Driver
Adult passengers	Seat belt must be worn if fitted	Seat belt must be worn if fitted	Passenger