

COMMITTEE	GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE
DATE:	21 September 2026
TITLE:	HACKNEY CARRIAGE TAXI FARES
PURPOSE:	TO APPROVE A PROPOSAL BY THE INDUSTRY TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM FARES
AUTHOR:	HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 places regulation duties on the Licensing Authority in relation to implementing a maximum fare that the public can be charged when travelling in hackney carriages within the County. The Act mandates the provision of a fare chart, and this together with the statutory requirement to use a taxi meter, allows for a mechanism to regulate the fares charged and to protect public interests.
- 1.2 It is required that any request to change the maximum fare charged is submitted by the industry. Three requests were recently received from taxi company owners to review the fares. The full details of the proposals were reported at the meeting of this Committee on 22 June 2026.
- 1.3 The maximum fare does not apply to journeys in private hire vehicles that have been pre-booked.
- 1.4 At previous meetings of this Committee there was a successful application to increase the maximum fare in 2019 and later in 2022, and there has been no change since then. See Appendix 1 for a table of the current maximum fares. The maximum fare was increased for the first two miles of a taxi journey from £5 to £6 in 2019, which is a substantial increase that reflected the average inflation costs for the period. There has been no increase in the standard rate of the first and second mile of a journey since then.
- 1.5 At its meeting on the 22 June, this Committee resolved to approve the proposals to increase some maximum fares, with some amendments to the recommendation for consultation. The licensing service was instructed to undertake a consultation with the industry, followed by a statutory consultation advertised in a local newspaper for 14 days.

2. PROPOSAL APPROVED FOR CONSULTATION BY THE COMMITTEE

- 2.1 Having considered all the factors that are important to the current economic context, and the licensing officer's report, the Licensing Authority's recommendation was accepted - but with an amendment that the late-night tariff be operational from 22:00 until 7:00, instead of from 21:00 as proposed by the industry. At present, the late-night tariff is effective from midnight, and therefore this Committee was of the opinion that this was a fair amendment that was of benefit to the industry and to the public who were dependent on taxi use.
- 2.2 The Committee's final decision was therefore as follows -

- To increase the maximum fare for a one-mile journey from £3.60 to £4.00 to be consistent with several other councils and acknowledge the increase in the costs of running a taxi.
- To increase the operational hours of the late-night tariff to be operational from 22:00 until 07:00, instead of being operational from 00:00 midnight.
- To reduce the cost rate of late-night tariff journeys from being 60% higher than the basic rate back to being 50% higher than the basic rate to correspond generally with other councils. (See the draft Minutes of this Committee held in June which are attached.)
- To instruct the Licensing Authority to proceed with a statutory public consultation on the proposals.

3. THE RESULT OF THE CONSULTATION

- 3.1 In accordance with statutory arrangements, a consultation was undertaken on the above proposal for 14 days in a local newspaper, with the intention for the new maximum fare to become operational from the date stipulated on the notice, which is 1 October 2026. A copy of the advertisement published in a local newspaper between the 19 August and 3 September 2026 is attached. A copy of the advertisement and an invitation for comments were also posted for 14 days on the Council's website.
- 3.2 Before the official consultation commenced, correspondence was also sent to the taxi industry for four weeks. Two e-mails supporting the principle of increasing the maximum fares were received.
- 3.3 The consultation ended on 3 September 2026, and no responses were received to the public consultation.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee approves the proposal to increase the maximum fare with effect from 1 October 2026 in accordance with the recommendations, and in accordance with the legal provisions, as no objections or proposals have been received following public consultation.