



Licensing Sub Committee

6 December 2024

Variation to Hackney Carriage Tariffs for Christmas 2024/New Year 2025

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Summary

The purpose of this report is for Members to consider a tariff variation for the Christmas 2024/New Year 2025 period and if agreed, seek Cabinet approval.

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 That the Committee recommends to Cabinet to set the tariffs as attached in Appendix A.

2. Budget and Policy Framework

- 2.1 8.1.2 – 8.1.4 of the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy states:
 - 8.1.2 Medway Council will review the tariff when a bona-fide proposal is received;
 - 8.1.3 in reviewing the fare tariff the Council will follow the procedures in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976; and
 - 8.1.4 when determining the level of fares, 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.

3. Background

- 3.1 Currently, the Medway Licensed Taxi Drivers Association submit an annual request, with their suggested Christmas/New Year tariff variation, for officers to consider prior to their recommendation to Members.

- 3.2 The Christmas 2024/New Year 2025 variation was received by Licensing on 5 November 2024. Members should note the proposed variation mirrors that set for the previous 3 years.
- 3.3 A public notice was placed in the KM Medway on 14 November 2024 with a statutory 14-day consultation period, which ends on 27 November 2024 following which, any comments received will be circulated in a supplementary agenda for members consideration.
- 3.4 Members are requested to consider the Christmas 2024/New Year 2025 tariffs as detailed in Appendix A and if agreed recommend to Cabinet for approval.
- 3.5 For Members information, the current tariffs are attached at Appendix B.

4. Proposed Revisions

- 4.1 The proposed Christmas 2024/New Year 2025 variation of tariffs, submitted by the Medway Licensed Taxi Drivers Association is attached at Appendix A.

5. Risk Management

- 5.1 There are no risks associated with Members setting the variation to tariffs and seeking views from the public and taxi trade.

6. Financial and legal implications

- 6.1 The Council's licensing activities are met from a budget within the Business Support Department and licence fees contribute to meeting the cost of the service. There are no direct financial implications relating to the decision regarding this report.
- 6.2 Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that "a district council may fix the rates or fares within the district for time as well as distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the arrangements for the hire of a vehicle, to be paid in respect of the hire of hackney carriages by means of a table (hereafter in this section referred to as a "table of fares") made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section."
- 6.3 It is at the discretion of the Council as the licensing authority to set a tariff for licensed hackney carriages operating within the borough.
- 6.4 By fixing the fares, the Council is effectively setting the maximum fare that hackney carriage drivers can charge. Legally, taxi drivers may charge less than this rate but may not charge more.

- 6.5 The setting of fares applies only to hackney carriages drivers and not to private hire drivers who can charge their own rates as statute allows. In practice however, the majority of Medway licensed private hire drivers have meters installed in their vehicles and charge the rate set by the tariff for journeys within the borough as this leads to fewer arguments with customers who may otherwise be confused as to why charges differ for the same journey.

Lead officer contact

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Background papers

None

Appendices

Appendix A – Proposed Christmas 2024/New Year 2025 tariffs

Appendix B – Medway Council Current Tariffs