

5. CHANGES TO TARIFF 2 FARES

REPORT OF: Lynne Standing Head of Housing Environmental Health & Building Control

Contact Officer: Alec Lee Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Officer
Email: alecl@midsussex.gov.uk Tel: 01444 477335

Wards Affected: All

Key Decision: No

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. For the Licensing Committee to consider an application from the Mid Sussex Taxi Association requesting changes to the tariffs charged on certain days in the year and when carrying more than 5 passengers

SUMMARY

2. The Mid Sussex Taxi Association have requested that they be allowed to charge Tariff 2 fares on Easter Sunday and on any Sunday that is followed by a Bank Holiday in lieu. They also request that they are allowed to implement Tariff 2 where a multi seat vehicle is transporting 5 or more passengers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Members to decide which of the following options they support:
 - (a) To retain the current Hackney Tariff as detailed in appendix 2
 - (b) To change the Hackney Tariff.
-

BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Mid Sussex Taxi Association has requested that they be allowed to charge Tariff 2 fares on Easter Sunday and on any Sunday that is followed by a Bank Holiday in lieu. They also request that they are allowed to implement Tariff 2 where a multi seat vehicle is transporting 5 or more passengers.
- 4.2 The Association seek to justify the changes of the current Hackney Tariffs following a ballot of their members at a recent Association meeting. Members of the Association are aware that a large Private Hire operator in the area charges fares at Tariff 2 when multi seat vehicles are carrying 5 or more passengers as opposed to the carrying of 6 or more passengers as authorised for Hackney Carriages. This causes confusion for the customer and disadvantages the Hackney proprietors. They have also requested that they be allowed to charge Tariff 2 fares on Easter Sunday and any Sunday that is followed by a Bank Holiday in lieu. A copy of their letter is attached as Appendix 1.
- 4.3 Enquiries made with the other licensing authorities in Sussex show that 10 other authorities allow an enhanced fare to be charged where 5 or more passengers are carried in a licensed vehicle. These enquiries also show that 7 other authorities allow

an enhanced fare to be charged on a Sunday during the day. 1 authority allows an enhanced fare to be charged on Easter Sunday.

4.4 The current Tariff Card is shown as Appendix 2

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT

5.1 By virtue of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and the Transport Act 1985 the council is required to administer and enforce the activities of Hackney Carriages throughout the district.

6.0 RISK MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

6.1 In accordance with the Councils risk Management Strategy; consideration had been given to the potential risks associated with the recommendations set out in this report. If adopted the proposed changes in tariff will be advertised so that members of the public will be given ample opportunity to submit objections.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

7.1 Should the change in tariffs be agreed by members the cost to advertise the changes in the local press would be approximately £900.00 which will need to be met within existing budget.



MID SUSSEX TAXI ASSOCIATION formerly MSDHPHA

Francis Jennings
Hon. Secretary
6 Franklands Village
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 3RA

A Lee
Taxi Licensing Officer
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
HAYWARDS HEATH
RH16 1SS

27th July 2010

Dear Mr Lee,

Half Yearly General Meeting – 10th June 2010

Following the above meeting, our members were balloted on the various proposals submitted to the meeting. As a result of that ballot, I am now required to put the following resolutions to you:-

- (1) That this association petition the council to allow multi-seater vehicles to charge tariff 2 for 5 passengers and above instead of the current rule of 6 and above. This request arises because Station Cars private hire currently charge T2 for 5 or more passengers and this disparity can only serve to confuse the customer.
- (2) That this association petition the council to allow tariff 2 to be charged on Easter Sunday.
- (3) That this association petition the council to allow tariff 2 to be charged on any Sunday that is followed by a bank holiday in lieu, e.g. when Boxing Day falls on a Saturday, Monday 28th December would be a bank holiday.

As a point of information, members were balloted on proposals for a fare increase but, despite the impending increase in VAT, these proposals failed to gain a majority vote.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Francis Jennings
Hon. Secretary



**MID SUSSEX
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**MAXIMUM HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES
WITH EFFECT FROM 1st APRIL 2009
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Section 65**

**Tariff 1
Applies to all hiring's except those mentioned in Tariff's 2 & 3**

Initial distance not exceeding 546 metres (598 yards) or a combination of distance and time or part thereof.	£2:80p
For each subsequent 161 metres (176 yards or part thereof)	20p
Waiting Time for each period of 40 seconds	20p

**Tariff 2
Applies to all hiring's begun between 12 midnight and 6 a.m. on weekdays and 12 midnight and 8:30 a.m. on Sundays, after 8 p.m. on 24th and 31st December, all day 26th December, Good Friday and Public and Bank Holidays**

Initial distance not exceeding 546 metres (598 yards) or a combination of distance and time or part thereof.	£4:20p
For each subsequent 161 metres (176 yards or part thereof)	30p
Waiting Time for each period of 40 seconds	30p

**Tariff 3
Applies to all hiring's from 00.01 hours on December 25th to midnight December 25th**

Initial distance not exceeding 546 metres (598 yards) or a combination of distance and time or part thereof.	£5:60p
For each subsequent 161 metres (176 yards or part thereof)	40p
Waiting Time for each period of 40 seconds	40p

Additional Charges

Subject to the Licensed capacity of the vehicle, the driver when carrying **6 or more passengers** is entitled to charge **Tariff 2**

Soiling charge **£40**

Emergency Fuel Surcharge

To be applied to each £5 of indicated metered fare or part thereof **during periods** when pump prices reach

A	£1:40p	to	£1:64p per litre	25p
B	£1:65p	to	£1:89p per litre	40p
C	£1:90p	per litre		60p

In the event of a complaint please contact :

The Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Licensing Officer
Mid Sussex District Council, Oaklands, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1SS
Tel. 01444 458166

6. TAXI LICENSING CHARTER

REPORT OF: Lynne Standing, Head of Service for Housing, Environmental Health & Building Control

Contact Officer: Yvonne Leddy
Email: yvonneled@midsussex.gov.uk Tel: 01444 477300

Wards Affected: All

Key Decision Yes/No

Purpose Of Report

1. To seek Members' views on the Taxi Licensing Charter before going out to consultation with the trade.

Recommendations

2. Members are asked to note the Charter in Appendix 1 and suggest any additions or changes and to authorise consultation with the trade from 20th October 2010 for 30 days.
-

Background

- 4.1 During a meeting with the Mid Sussex Taxi Association the concept of a charter was raised which would establish a base for the level of service which the trade can expect from licensing. They welcomed us setting service standards.
- 4.2 It is recognised that there is a need for a balanced approach in licensing to ensure public safety against restrictive conditions that impose unnecessary costs on current and prospective entrants to the trade. The charter seeks to establish a working partnership to help achieve this balance.
- 4.3 In appendix 1 the Taxi Service Charter sets service standards the Licensing Team will provide in respond to requests from the trade e.g. telephone calls, length of time to respond to complaints, processing applications, enforcement etc.
- 4.4 Consultation with the trade will be carried out in October for 30 days. The Taxi Service Charter will be sent to the Mid Sussex Taxi Association and the Private Hire Vehicle Operators.

Policy Context

6. The licensing of Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles is to protect the public.

Other Options Considered

7. Continue with the current arrangements with no charter.

Financial Implications

8. None

Other Material Implications

9. None

Background Papers

10. None

TAXI SERVICE CHARTER

INTRODUCTION

The aim of local authority licensing of the Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle trades is to protect the public. Mid Sussex District Council are aware that the public should have reasonable access to Taxi and Private Hire services, because of the part they play in local transport provision.

There is a need for a balanced approach in licensing to ensure Public Safety, against restrictive conditions that impose unnecessary costs on current and prospective entrants to the trade. Mid Sussex District Council believe that working in partnership is the best way to achieve this balance.

Our Charter documents the responsibilities of Mid Sussex District Council as the Licensing Authority, and the drivers as frontline service providers.

CHARTER

The Environmental Health Division Enforcement Officers, endeavour to ensure the safety and well being of residents & visitors when using Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles that have been licensed by Sussex area District Council.

The vehicles and drivers are subject to stringent tests and conditions, enforced by the Licensing Team, before they are able to obtain a licence. These include a driver knowledge test; vehicle fitness testing on application and renewal; medical fitness checks, Criminal Record Bureau checks (3 yearly) DVLA checks and DSA driving test.

STANDARDS OF SERVICE

1. Processing Applications:

It is the responsibility of the licence holder to be aware of the expiry date of their licenses and to ensure that all necessary paperwork is sent to us in good time for the renewal process. We will send a reminder (5 weeks before) to the applicant when a licence is due for renewal

We require the return of all completed paperwork and the fee with at least 14 days notice. If these timescales are followed, we guarantee the new licence will be processed before the expiry date of your old licence. If we do not receive the paperwork within this time frame, we cannot guarantee the licence being ready in time. You run the risk of being unable to work if your licence has expired.

2. Plating:

Plating of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles will take place on Friday mornings. Paperwork for replacement plates must be with us by midday on Monday to guarantee your vehicle being included on a Friday.

In circumstances where companies who supply temporary replacement vehicles cannot always make it on Fridays separate arrangements will be made to plate the temporary vehicle.

3. General level of service:

Whenever you contact us you can expect to be treated with courtesy and consideration, and to have your confidentiality respected.

- If you telephone us we will aim to answer your call within 6 rings. If we are unable to deal with your query directly we will put you in touch with someone who can.
- We will return all voicemail messages by the next working day and, if necessary, follow up with a full answer to your enquiry within 10 working days.
- 95% of all service requests will be actioned within 5 working days.
- If you write to us by letter we will reply within 10 working days, or acknowledge your letter within 3 working days explaining why more time is needed.
- We will acknowledge e-mails within 1 working day and respond in full within 10 working days.
- Offer appointments for advice on Taxi Licensing

4. Enforcement

The Environmental Health Enforcement Concordat, endeavours to ensure the safety and well being of residents & visitors when using Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles that have been licensed by Mid Sussex District Council.

The Licensing Team undertake spot checks throughout the district, often in conjunction with the Police & Vehicle Inspectorate.

These checks have sometimes led to the suspension of licenses due to serious breaches of licensing conditions and offences under Road Traffic Statutes.

5. Applications

To apply for a Hackney or Private Hire Licence, we supply a driver application pack. All forms included in the pack are available to print off on our website at:

[http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/page.cfm?pageID=5825,](http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/page.cfm?pageID=5825)

or

you can contact our Customer Contact Centre on 01444 477335 to request that a pack be sent to you.

6. Complaints

Complaints about the conduct, behaviour or concerns about the condition of any Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle or Private Hire Operator licensed by Mid Sussex District Council, should be made in writing.

Details of the incident, including time, date, vehicle (driver details) can be forwarded by post or email.

CONTACT US

Where: Mid Sussex District Council is located at Oaklands, Oaklands Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1SS

When: Our opening hours are Monday to Thursday 9.00am – 5pm; Friday 9.00am – 4pm

email: taxilicensing@midsussex.gov.uk

Useful telephone numbers :

Main reception:	01444 458166
Out of hours emergency number:	01444 257298
Contact Centre Number:	01444 477335