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To: All Members of the Licensing  
Committee

Please ask Shaun Banks (Telephone:  
for: 01793 463606)  
sbanks@swindon.gov.uk

Dear Councillor,

**Licensing Committee – Thursday, 4 February 2016**

I refer to the agenda for the above meeting and enclose reports in relation to the following Agenda Item.

**7. Consideration to Review the Hackney Carriage Tariff' (Pages 3 - 20)**

Yours faithfully,

Shaun Banks (Telephone: 01793 463606)  
for Director of Law and Democratic Services



**Stephen P. Taylor M.A (Oxon), Solicitor**  
Director of Law and Democratic Services



## Consideration to review the Hackney Carriage Tariff

### Licensing Committee

Date: 04 February 2016

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Author:	Kathryn Ashton – Licensing Manager
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

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#### 1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To consider whether there should be an increase in the maximum scale of fares for licensed hackney carriage operators in the Borough. There are two proposals before the Committee.
- 1.2 Mr Keith Radway of Swindon Black Cabs at Appendix A.
- 1.3 Mr John Stocker and Mr Andrew Lucas at Appendix B.
- 1.4 The current scale of fares which has been in operation since 1 September 2008 is shown at Appendix C

#### 2. Recommendations

##### That Committee:

- 2.1 Considers the proposals for an increase in the Hackney Carriage Tariff attached as Appendix A and B, and
- 2.2 Agree a draft maximum scale of fares which if varying the existing scale of fares will be subject to public consultation as required by section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

#### 3.0 Detail

- 3.1 It is at the discretion of the Council to set a meter tariff for licensed hackney carriages operating within the Borough if it chooses to do so.
- 3.2 Councils are not obliged to set a maximum fare for their area, they could decide instead to rely on market forces to establish the going rate and at the same time to promote competition.
- 3.3 In the past Swindon BC has chosen to set a tariff. The Office of Fair Trading does not recommend that Councils remove pricing restrictions for taxis and recognises that whilst there may be some good reason for deregulating fares, on balance, those for applying controls are stronger. It does however, recommend that local authorities should only set fare tariffs which represent the maximum that can be charged, and not set fixed or minimum fares. This statement is shown on the tariff card issued to all vehicle proprietors.

# **Consideration to review the Hackney Carriage Tariff**

## **Licensing Committee**

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- 3.4 The current scale of taxi fares set by Swindon Borough Council is attached as part of Appendix C to this report. The last increase became effective 1 September 2008 following a committee decision to approve an increase in the tariff made in 2008.
- 3.5 The taxi tariff may be reviewed at any time and is usually done so at the request of trade.
- 3.6 Any taxi tariff set by the Council is the maximum any hackney carriage driver can charge for a journey although they are at liberty to charge less than the approved tariff if they choose to do so. However a hackney carriage driver must activate the meter for any journey commencing within the Borough.
- 3.7 Committee may also resolve that the taxi tariff be reviewed at regular intervals no greater than 24 months or sooner if changing circumstance require, without the need for application from the trade. However this would also be subject to the statutory consultation.
- 3.8 The tariff does not apply to private hire drivers who set their own fares, via market forces without council involvement. An example of current private hire fares is shown at Appendix D.

## **4. Consultation with the trade**

- 4.1 There are currently 2 proposals from the trade as attached as Appendix A and B and whilst there has been no direct consultation with individual drivers these proposals have been considered through the Taxi Forum.
- 4.2 There are currently 173 hackney carriage drivers licensed by SBC.
- 4.2 Mr Radway of Swindon Black Cabs produced a signed petition attached as Appendix A1, showing 53 signatures, which is obviously less than a third of the trade.
- 4.3 Mr Stocker and Mr Lucas have provided an alternative proposal; however despite written requests by the Licensing Authority have failed to provide the numbers in support of their proposal.
- 4.4 It is normal practice that the trade reach agreement and a recommendation is given by Officers. However despite significant efforts by Officers to encourage this no agreement has been reached and the Council are therefore obliged to consider separate requests.

### 5. Conclusion

5.1 There is no evidence of a majority vote which would normally be the one for consultation, however having regard to the fact there has been no increase since 2008, it is recommended that the Committee agree an increase for consultation. The options for the Committee are as follows:

- To agree with the proposal as Appendix A
- To agree with the proposal as Appendix B
- To delegate to the Licensing Manager in conjunction with the Chair to propose an alternative; or
- To remain with the existing tariff.

5.2 It is proposed that any increase to the tariff be implemented from 1 April 2016. Where an objection is received within the 14 day period, the Council will set a date no later than 2 months after the first specified period, on which the table of fares will come into force with or without modification as decided by them after having considered all objections.

5.3 If Members choose to reject the request the tariff will remain at that set in 2008.

### 6. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

6.1 A DIA has not been undertaken at this stage as it is only proposed for consultation

### 7 Financial and Procurement Implications

7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

7.2 An increase in the taxi tariff would not impose additional costs nor generate any income for the Council.

7.3 There will be cost to the Council in terms of officer time in the carrying out of the consultation and implementing any change and financially for the advertising of proposed tariff in the newspaper. The exact quantity of this cost has not yet been established but is estimated to be in the region of £1000. This can be met from existing budgets.

### 8 Legal and Human Rights Implications

8.1 Legal and Human Rights considerations have been taken fully into account in compiling this report. It is considered that the Recommendations of this report are compatible with Convention Rights as they comply with the requirements of relevant legislation. The Council is required to comply with the statutory

# **Consideration to review the Hackney Carriage Tariff**

**Licensing Committee**

**Date: 04 February 2016**

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provisions referred to in the report, which the adoption of this policy \ regime will ensure it does. All legal, human rights and other relevant implications have been considered in the preparation of this report.

## **9 Diversity Impact Assessment**

It is not considered that the preparation of a DIA is required in respect of this report.

## **10.0 Consultees**

The Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) is consulted in respect of all reports.

## **11.0 Appendices**

- 11.1 Appendix A - Fare proposal Mr K Radway
- 11.2 Appendix A1 - Driver petition in support of Radway proposal
- 11.3 Appendix B - Fare proposal from Mr Stocker and Mr Lucas
- 11.4 Appendix C – Current fare tariff (since 2008).
- 11.5 Appendix D- Example of private hire fares over 1 to 10 Miles.

## Proposed Maximum hackney carriage fares:-

DAY RATE	NIGHT RATE	CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR
<p><b>Monday- Friday</b>  <b>06:00 - 1800</b>  <b>And Saturday 0600 - 1800</b></p> <p><b><u>Minimum Fare</u></b>  <b>£3.50</b>                      For the first 352 yards                      or 60 seconds then  <b>20p</b>                      For each additional 176 yards                      Or 39.6 seconds until the fare exceeds                      £11.00 thereafter  <b>30p</b>                      For each 176 yards                      Or 27.7 seconds</p>	<p><b>Monday - Friday</b>  <b>1800 - 0600</b>  <b>And Saturday night,</b>  <b>Sunday, and Public Holiday rate</b>                      From 1800 on the day before                      until 0600 on the Day after                      Public Holidays and Sundays</p> <p><b><u>Minimum Fare</u></b>  <b>£3.90</b>                      For the first 352 yards                      or 60 seconds then  <b>20p</b>                      For each additional 176 yards                      Or 39.6 seconds until the fare exceeds                      £7.00 thereafter  <b>30p</b>                      For each 176 yards                      Or 27.7 seconds</p>	<p><b>Christmas/New Year</b>  <b>2000 Dec 24th to 0600 Dec 28<sup>th</sup> and</b>  <b>2000 Dec 31st to 0600 Jan 2<sup>nd</sup></b></p> <p><b><u>Minimum Fare</u></b>  <b>£6.50</b>                      For the first 352 yards                      or 60 seconds then  <b>30p</b>                      For each 176 yards                      Or 27.7 seconds</p>

### Extra charges to apply at all times

**Additional passengers:** Each additional person (excluding infants in arms) (2 children under 10 count as one person) **60p**

**Luggage (excluding wheelchairs):** Each item in the driver's compartment and each other item over 61cm long **30p**

**Soilage charge:** Where the customer has soiled the vehicle requiring off road valeting **£75**

**Telephone Bookings:** For any hiring which is arranged in advance **£2.00**

**There is no extra charge for carrying wheelchairs or assistance dogs**

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We the undersigned have read, understood and support the alteration to  
Hackney Carriage Fares as proposed by Mr Keith Radway and the Trade  
(copy in red below)

NAME	DRIVER NUMBER	H/C VEHICLE NUMBER (OWNER)	SIGNED
C. Fawcett	HD0050	H 286	[Signature]
T. Brown		306	[Signature]
Michael		H 216	[Signature]
Abdul Malik		121	[Signature]
W. Khan		114	[Signature]
Chen		120	[Signature]
E. Radway		093	[Signature]
STILIN	HD156		[Signature]
DANIEL S. BINGHAM		HD005	[Signature]
PHILIP WATLEY		HD0449	[Signature]
DAVID DOYLE		419	[Signature]
H.S. TACK		481	[Signature]
S.S. GILL		06-21	[Signature]
KEITH LARSEN		67	[Signature]
MARTIN CLARK		223	[Signature]
IAN C HUNT	122	04	[Signature]
M. O. TOOLE		HD13-117	[Signature]
Brian Edy	195	64	[Signature]
KEVIN LEGG		H209	[Signature]
ANDY SABAT		398	[Signature]
Jim	ITALI	056	[Signature]
STEVE MURRAY	3 plates	H	[Signature]
ALY MURRAY		HV 400	[Signature]
JAMES BARNES		HV105	[Signature]
CHUCK SHURMER		HV220	[Signature]
L. L. HILL		HD70	[Signature]
IS RUKINGAMA		HD17	[Signature]
MUSTAFA VILHMAN		HV225/HV111	[Signature]
P. G. [unclear]		HD159	[Signature]
M. S. CROWAL		HD155	[Signature]





Dear Mr Shears & Ms Ashton

Please find below the tariff proposed by Keith Radway and supported by others who have already confirmed their support in their signed agreement submitted to you previously.

We have, as you know, already supplied the tariff previously in the councils own format – both in pdf and word document form. Below is the tariff repeated in the different format of per mile, requested by yourselves to be done after another proposal was made in this format not previously requested.

We trust this assists the council and note that it has been sent by us prior to the councils deadline of tomorrow – although we note that Mr Shears is apparently now on leave to the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2016. We trust this will not affect negatively on the proposal being provided and submitted for council consideration in due course.

<b>Per Miles</b>	<b>Current Day Rate</b>	<b>Current Night Rate</b>	<b>Proposed day Rate (by K.Radway)</b>	<b>Proposed night Rate (by K Radway)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>£4.30</b>	<b>£4.90</b>	<b>£5.10</b>	<b>£5.50</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>£6.30</b>	<b>£6.90</b>	<b>£7.10</b>	<b>£7.50</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>£8.30</b>	<b>£8.90</b>	<b>£9.10</b>	<b>£10.50</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>£10.30</b>	<b>£10.90</b>	<b>£11.10</b>	<b>£13.50</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>£12.30</b>	<b>£12.90</b>	<b>£14.10</b>	<b>£16.50</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>£14.30</b>	<b>£14.90</b>	<b>£17.10</b>	<b>£19.50</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>£16.60</b>	<b>£17.30</b>	<b>£20.10</b>	<b>£22.50</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>£19.10</b>	<b>£19.80</b>	<b>£23.10</b>	<b>£25.50</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>£21.60</b>	<b>£22.30</b>	<b>£26.10</b>	<b>£28.50</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>£24.10</b>	<b>£24.80</b>	<b>£29.10</b>	<b>£31.50</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>£49.10</b>	<b>£37.30</b>	<b>£44.10</b>	<b>£46.50</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>£49.10</b>	<b>£49.60</b>	<b>£59.10</b>	<b>£61.50</b>

Many thanks

Tina Radway  
On behalf of  
Keith R Radway

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Email [johnrstocker@hotmail.com](mailto:johnrstocker@hotmail.com)  
[ajl\\_taxi\\_man@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ajl_taxi_man@hotmail.co.uk)  
14 January 2016

To Cllr Vera Tomlinson, Chair Taxi Licencing Committee  
Cc Kathryn Ashton, Taxi Licencing  
Mike Shears, Taxi Licencing

Dear Cllr Tomlinson

Following a recent meeting where a fare increase was proposed and submitted by Mr Keith Radway and supported by Mr Hunt, we have had the opportunity to examine the implications on both the Taxi trade and to their passengers.

Mr Radway proposes no less than 7 separate increases within this submission, the greatest to reduce the higher rate threshold to only £7.00 at night, increasing fares by over 30% in some cases.

There has been a deliberate attempt to mislead both the council and the trade as to the full extent of the fare increases submitted and it appears that many members have been coerced into signing support for this proposal without being shown how much the fares will actually rise to.

We believe that as vehicle costs licence fees have increased considerably there is a case for a small rise. However, a fare increase on this scale is unacceptable and will not only damage the reputation of the Taxi trade and drive away business; it will create multiple zones within Swindon which will split communities with different rate charges.

We therefore submit a fare increase proposal which is transparent, with simply a 60 pence increase across the day and night start rates and a £1.00 increase on the Christmas and New Year start rate. The higher rate threshold will remain at £16.10 to incorporate all of Swindon at the lower rate and all other charges will remain as they are.

We feel this increase is fair, and in line with other increases within the public transport sector. There is broad support within the trade for this increase and we look to the council to approve this with the view to review fares on an annual basis from here.

Please find attached proposal for submission with fares on a mile by mile basis as requested.  
Yours Sincerely

John Stocker  
Andrew Lucas

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## PROPOSED MAXIMUM HACKNEY CARRIAGE RATES

DAY RATE	NIGHT RATE	CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR
<b>Monday - Friday</b> <b>0600 - 1800</b> <b>and Saturday 0600 - 1800</b>  <b>Minimum Fare</b> <b>£3.50</b> for the first 368.8 metres or 79.3 seconds then <b>20p</b> for each additional 184.4 metres or 39.6 seconds until the fare exceeds £16.10 thereafter <b>20p</b> for each 129.9 metres or 27.7 seconds	<b>Monday - Friday</b> <b>1900 -0600</b> <b>AND</b> <b>SATURDAY NIGHT</b> <b>SUNDAY AND PUBLIC</b> <b>HOLIDAY RATE</b> from 1800 on the day before until 0600 on the day after Public Holidays and Sundays  <b>Minimum Fare</b> <b>£4.10</b>  <b>Distance and times</b> <b>as Day Rate</b>	<b>2000 Dec 24 to 0600 Dec 27</b> <b>and 2000 Dec 31 to 0600 Jan 2</b>  <b>Minimum Fare</b> <b>£7.50</b> for the first 368.8 metres or 79.3 seconds then <b>20p</b> for each additional 184.4 metres or 39.6 seconds until the fare exceeds £16.10 thereafter <b>20p</b> for each 129.9 metres or 27.7 seconds

## EXTRA CHARGES TO APPLY AT ALL TIMES

**ADDITIONAL PASSENGERS** Each additional person (excluding infants in arms) (2 children under 10 count as 1 person) **50p**

**Luggage (excluding wheelchairs)** Each item in the driver's compartment and each other item over 61cm long **20p**

**Soilage charge** Where the customer has soiled the vehicle requiring off road valeting **£75.00**

**Telephone Bookings** For any hiring which is arranged in advance **£2.00**

**THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR CARRYING WHEELCHAIRS OR ASSISTANCE DOGS**

## APPROXIMATE MILEAGE RATES FOR CURENT AND PROPOSED FARE TARIFFS

	Current Day Rates	Proposed Day Rates
1 MILE	£4.30	£4.90
2 MILES	£6.30	£6.90
3 MILES	£8.30	£8.90
4 MILES	£10.30	£10.90
5 MILES	£12.30	£12.90
6 MILES	£14.30	£14.90
7 MILES	£16.60	£17.30
8 MILES	£19.10	£19.80
9 MILES	£21.60	£22.30
10 MILES	£24.10	£24.80
15 MILES	£36.60	£37.30
20 MILES	£49.10	£49.80

	Current Night Rates	Proposed Night Rates
1 MILE	£4.90	£5.50
2 MILES	£6.90	£7.50
3 MILES	£8.90	£9.50
4 MILES	£10.90	£11.50
5 MILES	£12.90	£13.50
6 MILES	£14.90	£15.50
7 MILES	£17.30	£18.40
8 MILES	£19.80	£20.90
9 MILES	£22.30	£23.40
10 MILES	£24.80	£25.90
15 MILES	£37.30	£38.40
20 MILES	£49.60	£50.90



## Maximum hackney carriage fares from 1 September 2008

<p><b>DAY RATE</b></p> <p><b>Monday – Friday</b>  <b>0600 – 1900</b>  <b>and Saturday 0600 - 1800</b></p> <p><b>Minimum Fare</b>  <b>£2.90</b>          for the first          368.8 metres          or 79.3 seconds          then  <b>20p</b>          for each additional 184.4 metres          or 39.6 seconds          until the fare exceeds £16.10          thereafter  <b>20p</b>          for each 129.2 metres          or 27.7 seconds.</p>	<p><b>NIGHT RATE</b>  <b>Monday – Friday</b>  <b>1900 – 0600</b>  <b>and</b>  <b>Saturday night</b>  <b>Sunday and Public Holiday</b>  <b>rate</b></p> <p>From 1800 on the day          Before until 0600          On the day after Public Holidays and          Sundays</p> <p><b>Minimum Fare</b>  <b>£3.50</b></p> <p><b>Distance and times</b>  <b>as Day Rate</b></p>	<p><b>CHRISTMAS/          NEW YEAR</b>  <b>2000 Dec 24 to 0600 Dec 27</b>  <b>and</b>  <b>2000 Dec 31 to 0600 Jan 2</b></p> <p><b>Minimum Fare</b>  <b>£6.50</b>          for the first          368.8 metres          or 79.3 seconds          then  <b>20p</b>          for each additional 184.4          metres or 39.6 seconds          until the fare exceeds £19.10          thereafter  <b>20p</b>          for each 129.2 metres          or 27.7 seconds</p>
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### Extra charges to apply at all times

**Additional passengers** Each additional person (excluding infants in arms) (2 children under 10 count as one person) **50p**

**Luggage (excluding wheelchairs)** Each item in the driver's compartment and each other item over 61cm long **20p**

**Soilage charge** Where the customer has soiled the vehicle requiring off the road valeting **£75.00**

**Telephone bookings** For any hiring which is arranged in advance **£2.00**

**There is no extra charge for carrying wheelchairs or assistance dogs**

**Any complaint about this vehicle or driver should be directed to Taxi Licensing, Swindon Borough Council,  
 Wat Tyler House, Beckhampton Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH. Telephone 01793-466214**

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### Example of Private hire charges over ten miles

1 Mile	£4.20
2 Mile	£5.20
3 Mile	£6.40
4 Mile	£7.40
5 Mile	£8.40
6 Mile	£9.40
7 Mile	£10.40
8 Mile	£11.40
9 Mile	£12.40
10 Mile	£13.40

**Weekend surcharge:** Friday / Saturday / Sunday - 18:00 to 04:00 add £1:00

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