

Report to Licensing Committee

Date of meeting: 21st March 2022



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Subject: Taxi Tariff

Officer contact for further information:

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Committee Secretary: A Hendry

Recommendations: For Information

Background

Following concerns expressed by the licensed taxi trade, the Councils Licensing Team will be undertaking an urgent review of taxi fares applied to customers using a Hackney carriage within the district.

Under section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, any charge made by a Hackney carriage, must not exceed the table of fares published by the licensing authority, irrespective of how that journey was arranged (from a rank or street, being hailed or pre-booking the journey).

Before any published fares can be increased the Council must undertake consultation with the trade and public consultation by way of placing a public notice in a local newspaper. The consultation period must last no less than 14 days.

The current fee tariff has not been reviewed for the last 8 years and was scheduled to be reviewed as part of the wider taxi policy review later this year. However, due to the recent unprecedented fuel increases, it has been necessary to bring that review forward to support our licensed taxi trade.

Benchmarking shows that based on an average 2-mile fare, Epping Forest District Councils tariff is the lowest in Essex and we are ranked 279 lowest nationwide out of 355 Councils.

Council	2 Mile Fare	Essex Ranking	National Ranking
Basildon	£6.40	5	96
Braintree	£6.20	6	140
Brentwood	£6.60	4	71
Castle Point	£6.00	7	178
Chelmsford	£7.10	2	24
Colchester	£6.90	3	40
Epping Forest	£5.50	8	279
Harlow	£6.60	4	76
Maldon	negotiate individual fares	Unknown	Unknown
Rochford	6.20	6	151
Tendering	£6.40	5	119
Thurrock	£6.00	7	199
Uttlesford	£8.30	1	6

This information is based on the Hackney Carriage 'league table' of all 355 Councils published on the Private Hire & Taxi Monthly trade magazine. This is the official publication of

the National Private Hire & Taxi Association and is updated monthly, the figures shown are for March 2022.

It is proposed that the Council review its current tariff and once the proposal is finalised and we have undertaken the statutory consultation, we will seek formal adoption of the proposed fees.

The setting of fees is a function of the Executive and therefore cannot be undertaken by a regulatory committee or full Council.

Legal advice has been taken on this matter to see if an emergency surcharge can be applied as an interim solution. Unfortunately, we have been advised that the legislation provides no mechanism for an emergency fuel surcharge and therefore this is not possible.