

RECORD OF OFFICER / MATERIAL DECISION

Local Government (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

Decision Date: 12 May 2025

Decision Maker: Emily Yule – Deputy Chief Executive / Executive Director of Resources

Decision status: Is Key decision?: No

Is subject to call in?: No

Decision details:

Hackney carriage vehicles licensed by Norwich City Council are required to have and operate a taximeter, as mandated by byelaws and conditions under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. The meter must be set to the fare tariff agreed by Norwich City Council.

Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows a district council to fix the rate of fares paid by passengers to the driver for the hire of hackney carriages within the city, covering time, distance, and other charges related to the hire. Fares are a maximum limit, and it is an offence to charge more than the fare shown on the meter within the district. However, a lower fare can be agreed upon in advance of a hiring.

The regulation of fares is necessary due to the right of hackney carriage vehicles to ply for hire, making it difficult for passengers to compare prices or quality. The tariff provides assurance to all parties involved.

Norwich City Council's hackney fares were last reviewed in 2022 and came into effect in 2023. The setting of hackney carriage fares has traditionally been handled by the Licensing Committee. However, the implementation of these fares is an executive function, delegated to the Executive Director of Resources/Deputy Chief Executive.

A request for a fare increase has been received from a licensed driver. A survey conducted among licensed hackney carriage drivers in Norwich revealed that 39 out of 41 respondents supported a fare increase, with 30 requesting the same rate of increase.

Following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services, I have made the delegated decision to implement the following schedule of fares:

Schedule	
Tariff 1 (day rate) £4.40 £0.20 £0.20	First 40 yards Per 175 yards Per 36 seconds
Tariff 2 (evenings) £4.60 £0.20	First 40 yards Per 168 yards

Schedule	
£0.20	Per 36 seconds
Tariff 3 (Sundays, nights and other public holidays) £4.80 £0.20 £0.20	First 90 yards Per 157 yards Per 30 seconds
Tariff 4 (Christmas and New Year) (no change) £5.90 £0.20 £0.20	First 90 yards Per 137 yards Per 24 seconds
Additional Charges For cleaning following the soiling of the interior of the vehicle taking it off the road – a charge not exceeding	£100

Reasons for the decision:

To comply with the Council's duty to provide a schedule of fares for hackney carriage operators.

Other options considered:

To leave fares at current levels – this is not recommended as the trade have indicated that an increase is required to address rising operating costs.

To implement an alternative schedule of fares – a number of options were consulted on and the above table represents the majority view.

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