

Southampton's Combined Taxi Trade's Proposed Variation of the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares

September 2011

Southampton's Combined Taxi Trade that represents the Southampton Trade Association (STA), Southampton Hackney Association (SHA) and the Unite Union Cab Section is requesting the following increase to the Southampton City Council Table of Fares.

The pressures on the Taxi Trade has been severely increased over the intervening months since the last fare increase from increasing fuel prices, repair costs, insurance premiums and licensing costs on top of the numerous increases in general services and expenses.

From the ONS www.statistics.gov.uk the Retail Price Index (RPI) was 5.0% in June and July but rose to 5.2% in August. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 4.2% in June, 4.4% in July and 4.5% in August. Fuel prices may have slightly reduced this last month but Insurance premiums have accelerated beyond belief.

These increases are having a massive effect on the Trades ability to operate and although the members of the Trade know that there are increases that we all have to bear in this present financial climate they feel it is necessary to have a small but relevant increase in the current tariff just to be able to continue in business.

The tariff variation the Combined Taxi Trade is proposing will increase the overall cost of a journey by approximately 3.3% no matter how far the journey travels. Also because the fare variation has been constructed to make only a small change to the current tariff structure very little has to be done to verify compliance of the taximeters. The trade was, and will, work towards simplifying the structure even further in the future but to do that at the moment would mean a fare structure that would not be easily understood and would have a negative impact on the travelling public.

The proposed fare structure for 2011 is that the initial displayed fare during the Day Time Tariff (Tariff 1) should be increased by 0.10p to £2.50 followed by the current four 110 metre drops of £0.20 and then every subsequent £0.20p drop would be reduced by 7 metres to 205 metres. The Night Time Tariff (Tariff 2) would follow the same drop sequence and the initial displayed fare would also be increased by £0.10p to £3.30 and each following drop will remain at £0.25.

The current waiting time has not changed since May 2004, some 7 years, and it is therefore proposed to increase the charge from £16.00 to £20.00 an hour. The Sunday and Bank Holiday Tariffs would remain at Tariff 1 plus £1.00. The Trade also propose that the previous Tariff for Christmas be restored with the double rate of Tariff 1 to apply from 20.00 on Christmas Eve to 06.00 on the 27th December and from 20.00 on New Year's Eve to 06.00 on New Year's Day. The New Year's Day Tariff would remain at Tariff 1 plus £1.00 and the soiling charge would also stay the same.

Members of the Trade with the larger multi seat vehicles are always faced with larger repair, maintenance and tyre bills as well as higher fuel costs which reduce the vehicles economy when they are transporting more than 4 passengers. Therefore the Trade propose that an additional charge be included on the Tariff Chart of £2.00 for vehicles that are carrying more than 4 passengers. Only vehicles with the capacity to carry more than 4 passengers will have their taximeters set to allow this charge to reduce to possibility of abuse.

Because of the extra pressures on the members of the Trade many are looking toward other facilities and services they can offer their passengers. They want to

APPENDIX 2

expand the City's profile for business travellers as well as the ordinary members of public. One facility that is constantly asked for is the ability of a driver to accept credit or debit card payments. There are Companies willing to hire or sell terminals to the drivers but to cover those Companies operational costs and fraud risks they insist they have to add a Service charge to the transaction of 10%. On a small fare this does not amount to much and customers do not mind paying the charge but because it is an increase to the displayed fare on the taximeter the Trade propose this be added as an additional charge to the Tariff Chart.

Yours sincerely

Mr C Johnson

Chairman

On behalf of the Southampton's Combined Taxi Trade

APPENDIX 2

Southampton Combined Taxi Trade 2011 Fare Increase Proposal

PROPOSED MAXIMUM TABLE OF FARES inclusive of VAT where applicable

TARIFF 1 – Daytime – for any hiring begun after 6.00 a.m. and before 11.00 p.m.
except as in Tariffs 3 and 4 below

- | | |
|---|-------|
| (a) For the first 110 metres (120.3 yards) or part thereof: | £2.50 |
| (b) For the each subsequent 110 metres (120.3 yards) or part thereof to a maximum total distance travelled of 440 metres (481.2 yards): | £0.20 |
| (c) For each subsequent 205 metres (224.2 yards) or part thereof thereafter: | £0.20 |
| (d) Waiting Time – For each period of thirty-six seconds or part thereof: | £0.20 |

TARIFF 2 – Night-Time – for any hiring begun after 11.00 p.m. and before 6.00 a.m.
except as in Tariffs 4 and 5 below

- | | |
|---|-------|
| (a) For the first 110 metres (120.3 yards) or part thereof: | £3.30 |
| (b) For the each subsequent 110 metres (120.3 yards) or part thereof to a maximum total distance travelled of 440 metres (481.2 yards): | £0.25 |
| (c) For each subsequent 205 metres (224.2 yards) or part thereof thereafter: | £0.25 |
| (d) Waiting Time – For each period of thirty-six seconds or part thereof: | £0.25 |

TARIFF 3 – Sundays, Bank and Public Holidays

Except as in Tariff 4 below, for any hiring begun after 6.00 a.m. and before 11.00 p.m. on a Sunday, Good Friday, a Bank or Public Holiday, or 1st January, Tariff 1 above plus a surcharge, per hiring, of: £1.00

TARIFF 4 – Christmas and New Year's Eve

For any hiring begun after 8.00 p.m. on the 24th December and before 6.00 a.m. on the 27th December or begun after 8.00 p.m. on the 31st December and before 6.00 a.m. on the 1st January: Twice the rate of Tariff 1

Additional Charges

MORE THAN 4 PASSENGERS – If more than four passengers are carried, £2.00 per hiring

CARD PAYMENT – If payment is made by credit or debit card, a sum equivalent to 10% of the metered fare shall be added to the fare

ITCHEN BRIDGE TOLLS – If a toll is payable for crossing the Itchen Bridge, a sum equivalent to the toll paid.

SOILING CHARGE – If the hackney carriage is soiled by a passenger or an animal: £70.00

JUNE INFLATION FIGURES

RETAIL PRICE INDEX (RPI) - 5.0% (down from 5.2% in May) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)- 4.2% (down from 4.5% in May) BREAKDOWN OF KEY RPI STATISTICS ANNUAL RATE

Housing 1.5% Petrol & Oil 15.4%

Vehicle tax & Insurance 20.2% Rail Fares 7.4%

Food 7.3%

Oil & other foods 30.2% Clothing & footwear 10.9% Motoring costs 8.7%

Household consumable 6.1%

Source: ONS www.statistics.gov.uk

INFLATION FORECASTS (RPI) ANNUAL RATE

Quarter 2 2011 5.0% Quarter 3 2011 5.0% Quarter 4 2011 5.1% Quarter 1 2012 3.7% Quarter 2 2012 3.5% Quarter 3 2012 3.5% Quarter 4 2012 3.4%

Source: IDS Pay Report June 2011

JULY INFLATION FIGURES

RETAIL PRICE INDEX (RPI)- 5.0% (no change from June) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)- 4.4% (up from 4.2% in June) BREAKDOWN OF KEY RPI STATISTICS ANNUAL RATE

Housing 1.5% Petrol & Oil 14.5%

Vehicle tax & Insurance 21.4% Rail Fares 9.7%

Food 6.4%

Oil & other fuels 28.5% Clothing & footwear 12.2% Motoring costs 8.2%

Household consumable 6.3%

Source: ONS www.statistics.gov.uk

INFLATION FORECASTS (RPI) ANNUAL RATE Quarter 3 2011 5.4%

Quarter 4 2011 5.4%

Quarter 1 2012 4.2% Quarter 2 2012 3.8% Quarter 3 2012 4.1% Quarter 4 2012 3.9%

Source: IDS Pay Report June 2011