

Phased Harmonisation of the Council's Tables of Fares

The Licensing Authority has set out its aim of harmonising a number of the functions relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing. Since Cheshire East came into being a number of processes, procedures, and policies have been updated and apply across all our zones. However, the position remains that there are still some differences. One of these differences is that there are very different tables of fares operating in each of the three zones. In June 2011 the Licensing Committee instructed the Council's Licensing Officers to provide information relating to the potential harmonisation of the Council's Tables of Fares. Since then, there have been a number of meetings to discuss how this might be achieved and these have been consulted upon at various points. Following the last consultation exercise the Cabinet Member took a decision not to implement the proposals consulted upon. The Cabinet Member did however set out a number of principles at the meeting on the 1st July 2014 including the benefits of a level playing field. Having taken into consideration the details of the responses, Officers were instructed to produce further proposals for the phased harmonisation of the fares. This document sets out some proposals to phase harmonisation in over a number of steps. It has to be acknowledged that the current fares payable in each zone are very different and to achieve any sort of harmonisation will require compromise across the three areas and within the proposed stepped approach.

In setting its proposals for harmonisation the Licensing Authority has taken into consideration the following information:

1. The relevant legislation and case law
2. The consultation responses already received
3. The Department for Transport's 'Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing: Best Practice Guidance' (March 2010). This document confirms that the Department recommends abolishing zones. Whilst this is not a proposal at this time, different fare cards in each zone contributes to the negative aspects of continued zoning including public confusion over differences.
4. The Office for Fair Trading's 'The regulation of licensed taxi and PHV services in the UK' (November 2003)

Cheshire East Council is a 'Residents First' Council and any decision taken will be taken to achieve the best outcome for all our residents. We will take into consideration the views expressed during this further consultation and any decision taken may be influenced accordingly.

However, the benefits of harmonisation are clear and the licensed trade will need to provide their reasons why the Council's intention to harmonise should be amended or abandoned. Alternatively, if the trade has suggestions on alternative ways to change the tables of fares, these can be set out during the consultation process.

Phase1

Crewe Zone

TARIFF 1 - Day Rate	
Initial or Minimum Fare (first 5/10 th mile)	£3.20
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.20
TARIFF 2 - Night Rate 9pm to 7am	
Initial or Minimum Fare (first 5/10 th mile)	£3.40
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.20
TARIFF 3 - All Bank Holidays (midnight to midnight), Christmas & New Year (from 6pm on 24/12 to 8am on 27/12 and from 6pm on 31/12 to 8am on 02/01)	
Initial or Minimum Fare (first 5/10 th mile)	£4.90
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.30
EXTRA CHARGES	
Waiting time (per 30 seconds)	£0.20
For each person in excess of one	£0.30
Where the vehicle or seating is soiled	£50.00

Summary of changes:

- The flag rate on all tariffs moves from 1/10th of a mile to 5/10th of a mile.
- Amount charged after initial flag changes to 1/10ths of mile
- Tariff 1 flag increases to £3.20. In real terms this would not affect the price of any journey over half a mile. But this change would increase any journey of less than half a mile.
- There would also be an increase on Tariff 3.
- Waiting time increase
- Extra charge per person reduces to £0.30

Zone		Flag Rate	Half Mile Rate	One Mile Rate	Two Mile Rate
T1	C&N current	£2.40 (1/10 th)	£3.20	£4.20	£6.20
T1	C&N proposed	£3.20 (5/10 th)	£3.20	£4.20	£6.20
T2	C&N current	£2.40 (1/11 th)	£3.30	£4.40	£6.40
T2	C&N proposed	£3.40 (5/10 th)	£3.40	£4.40	£6.40
T3	C&N current	£3.50 (1/13 th)	£4.60	£5.90	£8.50
T3	C&N proposed	£4.90 (5/10 th)	£4.90	£6.40	£9.40

Congleton

TARIFF 1 - Day Rate	
If the distance does not exceed one mile for the whole distance	£3.10
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.20
TARIFF 2 - Night Rate 11:30pm to 7am, All Day Sunday and Public/Bank Holidays	
If the distance does not exceed one mile for the whole distance	£4.60
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.30
TARIFF 3 – Christmas Day and New Year's Day	
If the distance does not exceed one mile for the whole distance	£6.20
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.40
EXTRA CHARGES	
Waiting time (per 30 seconds)	£0.20
For each person in excess of one	£0.30
Where the carriage or seating is soiled	£50.00

Summary of changes:

- Tariff 1 flag rates increase from £2.90 to £3.10
- Other flags rates increase as a result
- Waiting time reduced by £2.40 per hour and calculation amends to £0.20 per 30 seconds
- Extra charge per person in excess of one introduced
- Soiling charge increases

	Zone	Flag Rate	Half Mile Rate	One Mile Rate	Two Mile Rate
T1	Cong current	£2.90 (1mil)	£2.90	£2.90	£4.90
T1	Cong proposed	£3.10 (1mil)	£3.10	£3.10	£5.10
T2	Cong current	£4.35 (1mil)	£4.35	£4.35	£7.35
T2	Cong proposed	£4.60 (1mil)	£4.60	£4.60	£7.60
T3	Cong current	£5.80 (1mil)	£5.80	£5.80	£9.80
T3	Cong proposed	£6.20 (1mil)	£6.20	£6.20	£10.20

Macclesfield

TARIFF 1 - Day Rate	
Initial or Minimum Fare (first 8/10 th mile)	£3.00
For each subsequent 1/10 th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.20
TARIFF 2 - Night Rate 11:30pm to 7am, All Day Sunday and Public/Bank Holidays	
Initial or Minimum Fare (first 8/10 th mile)	£4.50
For each subsequent 1/10 th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.30
TARIFF 3 – Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day	
Initial or Minimum Fare (first 8/10 th mile)	£6.00
For each subsequent 1/10 th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.40
EXTRA CHARGES	
Waiting time (per 30 seconds)	£0.20
For each person in excess of one	£0.30
Where the carriage or seating is soiled	£50.00

Summary of changes:

- Flag rates increase
- Initial rate/Min charge changes to 8/10th mile
- Old Tariff 3 (33.3+) removed and fares that would have fallen under this rate are moved to the new Tariff 2
- Current extra charges removed
- Waiting time increase
- Extra charge per person increases to £0.30

	Zone	Flag Rate	Half Mile Rate	One Mile Rate	Two Mile Rate
T1	Macc current	£2.70 (3/4 th Mil)	£2.70	£3.30	£5.30
T1	Macc proposed	£3.00 (8/10 th)	£3.00	£3.40	£5.40
T2	Macc current	£4.05 (3/4 th Mil)	£4.05	£4.95	£7.95
T2	Macc proposed	£4.50 (8/10 th)	£4.50	£5.10	£8.10
T3	Macc current	£5.40 (3/4 th Mil)	£5.40	£6.60	£10.60
T3	Macc proposed	£6.00 (8/10 th)	£6.00	£6.80	£10.80

Phase 2

Crewe Zone

TARIFF 1 - Day Rate	
Initial or Minimum Fare (first 5/10 th mile)	£3.40
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.20
TARIFF 2 - Night Rate 10pm to 7am and All Day Sunday and Public/Bank Holidays	
Initial or Minimum Fare (first 5/10 th mile)	£3.60
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.20
TARIFF 3 - Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day (from 6pm on the preceding day to 8am on the subsequent day)	
Initial or Minimum Fare (first 5/10 th mile)	£5.10
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.30
EXTRA CHARGES	
Waiting time (per 30 seconds)	£0.20
For each person in excess of one	£0.30
Where the vehicle or seating is soiled	£50.00

Summary of changes:

- Increase in all tariffs
- Tariff 2 amended to start at 10pm and Bank/Public Holidays moved to this rate
- Tariff three becomes a Christmas/New Year rate only and the wording is simplified

	Zone	Flag Rate	Half Mile Rate	One Mile Rate	Two Mile Rate
T1	C&N proposed	£3.40 (5/10 th)	£3.40	£4.40	£6.40
T2	C&N proposed	£3.60 (5/10 th)	£3.60	£4.60	£6.60
T3	C&N proposed	£5.10 (5/10 th)	£5.10	£6.60	£9.60

Congleton

TARIFF 1 - Day Rate	
If the distance does not exceed one mile for the whole distance	£3.30
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.20
TARIFF 2 - Night Rate 10pm to 7am, All Day Sunday and Public/Bank Holidays	
If the distance does not exceed one mile for the whole distance	£4.90
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.30
TARIFF 3 – Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day (from 6pm on the preceding day to 8am on the subsequent day)	
If the distance does not exceed one mile for the whole distance	£6.40
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.40
EXTRA CHARGES	
Waiting time (per 30 seconds)	£0.20
For each person in excess of one	£0.30
Where the carriage or seating is soiled	£50.00

Summary of changes:

- Increase on all tariffs
- Tariff 2 takes effect from 10pm

- Change of wording for Tariff 3

	Zone	Flag Rate	Half Mile Rate	One Mile Rate	Two Mile Rate
T1	Cong proposed	£3.30	£3.30	£3.30	£5.30
T2	Cong proposed	£4.90	£4.90	£4.90	£7.90
T3	Cong proposed	£6.40	£6.40	£6.40	£10.40

Macclesfield

TARIFF 1 - Day Rate	
If the distance does not exceed one mile for the whole distance	£3.40
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.20
TARIFF 2 - Night Rate 10pm to 7am, All Day Sunday and Public/Bank Holidays	
If the distance does not exceed one mile for the whole distance	£4.90
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.30
TARIFF 3 – Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day (from 6pm on the preceding day to 8am on the subsequent day)	
If the distance does not exceed one mile for the whole distance	£6.40
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.40
EXTRA CHARGES	
Waiting time (per 30 seconds)	£0.20
For each person in excess of one	£0.30
Where the carriage or seating is soiled	£50.00

Summary of changes:

- Increase on all tariffs
- Flag rate and first mile rate harmonised (this results in a drop in the first mile rate)
- Tariff 2 takes effect from 10pm
- Change of wording for Tariff 3

	Zone	Flag Rate	Half Mile Rate	One Mile Rate	Two Mile Rate
T1	Macc proposed	£3.40	£3.40	£3.40	£5.40
T2	Macc proposed	£4.90	£4.90	£4.90	£7.90
T3	Macc proposed	£6.40	£6.40	£6.40	£10.40

Phase 3

Crewe Zone

TARIFF 1 - Day Rate	
If the distance does not exceed one mile for the whole distance	£3.90
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.30
TARIFF 2 - Night Rate 10pm to 7am, All Day Sunday and Public/Bank Holidays	
If the distance does not exceed one mile for the whole distance	£5.00
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.30
TARIFF 3 - Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day (from 6pm on the preceding day to 8am on the subsequent day)	
If the distance does not exceed one mile for the whole distance	£7.00
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.40
EXTRA CHARGES	
Waiting time (per 30 seconds)	£0.20
For each person in excess of one	£0.30
Where the vehicle or seating is soiled	£50.00

Summary of changes:

- Flag/Initial rate changed to first mile rate
- Increases in tariffs 2 and 3 as result
- Decrease in tariff 1 from 8/10th of the first mile to 3/10th of the second mile as a result

	Zone	Flag Rate	Half Mile Rate	One Mile Rate	Two Mile Rate
T1	C&N proposed	£3.90	£3.90	£3.90	£6.90
T2	C&N proposed	£5.00	£5.00	£5.00	£8.00
T3	C&N proposed	£7.00	£7.00	£7.00	£11.00

Congleton

TARIFF 1 - Day Rate	
If the distance does not exceed one mile for the whole distance	£3.50
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.20
TARIFF 2 - Night Rate 10pm to 7am, All Day Sunday and Public/Bank Holidays	
If the distance does not exceed one mile for the whole distance	£5.00
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.30
TARIFF 3 – Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day (from 6pm on the preceding day to 8am on the subsequent day)	
If the distance does not exceed one mile for the whole distance	£7.00
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.40
EXTRA CHARGES	
Waiting time (per 30 seconds)	£0.20
For each person in excess of one	£0.30
Where the carriage or seating is soiled	£50.00

Summary of changes:

- Increases in flag rates

Zone		Flag Rate	Half Mile Rate	First Mile Rate	Second Mile Rate
T1	Cong proposed	£3.50	£3.50	£3.50	£5.50
T2	Cong proposed	£5.00	£5.00	£5.00	£8.00
T3	Cong proposed	£7.00	£7.00	£7.00	£11.00

Macclesfield

TARIFF 1 - Day Rate	
If the distance does not exceed one mile for the whole distance	£3.50
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.20
TARIFF 2 - Night Rate 10pm to 7am, All Day Sunday and Public/Bank Holidays	
If the distance does not exceed one mile for the whole distance	£5.00
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.30
TARIFF 3 – Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day (from 6pm on the preceding day to 8am on the subsequent day)	
If the distance does not exceed one mile for the whole distance	£7.00
For each subsequent 1/10th mile or uncompleted part thereof	£0.40
EXTRA CHARGES	
Waiting time (per 30 seconds)	£0.20
For each person in excess of one	£0.30
Where the carriage or seating is soiled	£50.00

Summary of changes:

- Increases in flag rates

	Zone	Flag Rate	Half Mile Rate	One Mile Rate	Two Mile Rate
T1	Macc proposed	£3.50	£3.50	£3.50	£5.50
T2	Macc proposed	£5.00	£5.00	£5.00	£8.00
T3	Macc proposed	£7.00	£7.00	£7.00	£11.00

Summary

These changes can be made at yearly intervals or at intervals agreed by the relevant Cabinet Member. For example change one may take place in Autumn 2014, change two in Spring 2015 and change three in Autumn 2015 or Spring 2016. At the end of these three steps we would be in the following position:

1. All tables would be harmonised to the same structure
2. The Structure of the tables would have been simplified to 3 tariffs
3. Tariffs 2 and 3 would be the same in each zone
4. The extra charges would be the same in each zone
5. Tariff 1 in C&N zone would still be higher than the other zones

The advantages of phasing in these changes will mean that any increases or decreases can be made in such a way as to ease the impact. It would also allow

the Trade to plan for the changes and for their business plans to take account of the implications.

The Council does currently consider that, one Table of Fares structure across Cheshire East is of benefit to the residents of the Borough for the following reasons:

1. Simplified charges for service users
2. Level playing field for service users and the Licensed Trade
3. Reducing the number of tariffs
4. Increase to help the licensed trade invest in good quality vehicles that are safe and comfortable

The Consultation

This consultation will be conducted for the period **13th August 2014 to 24th September 2014**. The Licensed trade and public are free to comment on these proposals, but some questions that the Licensing Authority would appreciate views on are set out at the end of the document.

Drop-in sessions for individuals who want further information on these proposals have been arranged at the Council Offices, Westfields, Sandbach, CW11 1HZ on:

Tuesday 19th August 2014 between 10am – 1pm and 2pm - 4pm

Thursday 4th September 2014 between 10am – 1pm and 2pm - 4pm

If there is a high demand, sessions may be limited to 10 minutes. Further information or general questions can also be direct to the Licensing Team at licensing@cheshireeast.gov.uk or 0300 123 5015.

Responses to the consultation should be made to:

Miss Kim Evans
Licensing Team
Municipal Buildings
Earle Street
Crewe
CW1 2BJ

Or

By email: licensing@cheshireeast.gov.uk