

AGENDA ITEM: 5

SUMMARY

Report for:	Licensing, Health & Safety and Enforcement Committee			
Date of meeting:	04 February 2014			
PART:	1			
If Part II, reason:				

Title of report:	Review of taxi table of fares – changes to tariff 2 times				
Contact:	Ross Hill – Licensing Team Leader, Legal Governance				
Purpose of report:	To present the results of additional consultation on a proposal to change the applicable times for tariff 2 in the table of maximum fares chargeable by hackney carriages.				
Recommendations	Having regard to the additional responses received, to: a) Affirm the previous recommendation made on the 29th October 2013 as shown in the draft table of fares at Annex B, with no further changes; or b) Make a new recommendation to Cabinet in respect of the fixing of fares and charges payable in connection with the hire of licensed hackney carriages in Dacorum.				
Corporate objectives:	 Dacorum Delivers Setting of fares is a statutory power available to the Council under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 				
Implications:	Financial If the table of fares is changed, there will be a cost to the Council in terms of giving public notice and printing new tariff cards, which would be met from existing Licensing budgets. Vehicle proprietors would also need to have their meters re- tariffed, which would carry a cost payable directly by them to a calibration company. Value for Money / Risk / Equalities / Health and Safety Implications None				

Consultees:	This report contains additional responses received in respect of a proposed amendment to the table of fares which was not part of the original consultation.
Background papers:	Licensing, Health & Safety and Enforcement Committee agenda and minutes 29/10/2013
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Council is responsible for licensing hackney carriages within its area, and under the conditions imposed on such licences requires taximeters to be fitted in every licensed vehicle.
- 1.2. Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows the Council to "fix the rates or fares within the district ... and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle, to be paid in respect of the hire of hackney carriages by means of a table" (referred to as a 'table of fares'). Such tables specify the maximum amount payable for journeys within a district, and a hackney carriage driver who demands a sum in excess of that permitted commits an offence. However, drivers are free to charge any amount lower than the maximum should they wish to do so. In respect of additional charges for discretional items such as luggage, excess passengers, or fouling of the vehicle, such charges may only be levied if they appear on the table of fares set by the licensing authority.
- 1.3. Dacorum last set its table of fares in August 2011, and a copy of the current table is appended at Annex A.
- 1.4. The power to fix maximum fares only applies to journeys in hackney carriages, and not to private hire vehicles. There is no lawful power under which a licensing authority may regulate fares for the latter, the expectation being that, as journeys are pre-booked, customers will be able to compare prices and market forces will prevent excessive fares.
- 1.5. The table of fares applies to journeys starting and ending within the district, and a different fare may be negotiated prior to the start of the journey if part of the journey is undertaken outside the district. However, in practice, almost all journeys undertaken by hackney carriages will be run 'on the meter'.

2. CHANGES TO TARIFF

2.1. On the 29th October 2013, the Committee resolved to recommend to Cabinet that the maximum permitted fares chargeable by hackney carriages in Dacorum be increased in line with a request made by the Dacorum Hackney Carriage Drivers Association earlier in the year. The report considered on that date set out the results of public consultation on the proposed increases. In response to a number of comments made by respondents, the Committee also recommended changes to the times at which the higher rate tariff 2 applies – specifically, to remove Sundays (7am to 11pm) and the hour before

- midnight (7 days a week) from the applicable times. In both cases, if adopted, journeys commencing within these times would revert to tariff 1 (daytime rate). A draft table of fares setting out the Committee's recommendation to Cabinet is appended at Annex B.
- 2.2. Following that meeting, at a regular meeting between officers and representatives of the Association, concerns were expressed by the trade that the changes to tariff 2 times had not been part of the initial proposal nor were opinions expressly sought on this during the consultation exercise. After considering legal advice, officers agreed to provide a further limited opportunity for comments to be made, specifically on the proposed changes to the times, and for the Committee to be given the opportunity to consider any responses and to either affirm or modify their recommendation, as considered appropriate, prior to determination of this matter by Cabinet.
- 2.3. A summary of the Committee's recommendation was published both on the Council's website and the taxi email newsletter, and further comments were invited between the 28th November 2013 and the 17th January 2014.

3. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- 3.1. The initial consultation took place between the 2nd August and the 4th October 2013, by way of an online survey, attracting 86 responses (6 of whom identified themselves as being in the taxi or private hire trade). The results of that survey were set out in full in the report presented to Committee on the 29th October 2013, and as such are not repeated here.
- 3.2. During the additional consultation, the Hackney Carriage Driver's Association has submitted a petition against the proposed changes to times containing 263 signatures (plus a further 3 unsigned entries). However it has been observed that a number of individuals have signed the petition 2 or 3 times. Officers are currently examining the petition in greater detail to establish the number of unique signatories. The petition is appended at Annex C.
- 3.3. A further 41 responses were received from individual taxi drivers during the additional consultation period (some of whom are also signatories to the petition). These comments are reproduced at Annex D.
- 3.4. Across both the petition and the individual responses, the prevailing opinion amongst respondents is one of opposition to the reduction in applicable times for tariff 2 – universally in respect of the proposal to change the evening start time, and a significant majority in respect of Sundays (although a small number of responses expressed support for this part of the proposal). Where respondents have provided reasons to support their opposition to the changes, the most frequently cited ground is economic – the increase in running costs and a stated drop-off in driver's earnings in recent years. Other concerns cited include the unsociable and sometimes dangerous nature of the work undertaken, particularly at night, when many passengers are under the influence of alcohol, as well as an increase in the number of licensed vehicles plying for hire within the town resulting in a reduced number of fares per driver. A number of respondents have also referred to the reason for the original adoption of an increased rate on Sundays, and express concerns that, without the incentive of increased fares, many drivers will choose not to work on Sundays, leading to an under-provision of licensed taxis.

3.5. The Association's petition refers to the evening tariffs adopted by other local authorities. Officers have surveyed other Hertfordshire and neighbouring authority's fares in respect, and the results are set out at Annex E. While there is no discernable pattern to the use of higher rates on Sunday or the starting time for evening rates, it should be noted that each authority uses its own methodology for approaching the issue of fare setting, taking into account local demand and economic issues, and direct comparisons between authority's fares are not especially reliable or useful.

4. OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

- 4.1. Having regard to the additional responses received, the Committee are asked to take one of the following actions:
 - a) To affirm the previous recommendation made on the 29th October 2013 as shown in the draft table of fares at Annex B, with no further changes;

or

- b) To make a new recommendation to Cabinet in respect of the fixing of fares and charges payable in connection with the hire of licensed hackney carriages in Dacorum, pursuant to section 65(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 4.2. Cabinet are due to consider any recommendation made by the Committee at their meeting on 11th February 2014. The power to make or vary a table of fares must be exercised by an authority's executive, under section 9D(2) of the Local Government Act 2000.



LICENSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE: TABLE OF MAXIMUM FARES

22nd August 2011 Effective from

> Applies only to hirings: Between 11pm and 7am. Tariff Two For the whole distance of 440 yards or part thereof: £2.80 Tariff One

For each subsequent 220 yards or part thereof :- 22p

Waiting time for each period of 45 seconds or part thereof :- 20p

Between 6pm and midnight on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve

On any official Bank Holiday.

On Sundays

For the whole distance of 440 yards or part thereof: £4.20

Waiting time for each period of 45 seconds or part thereof :- 30p

For each subsequent 220 yards or part thereof :- 33p

For hirings begun on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day For the whole distance of 440 yards: £5.60 For each subsequent 220 yards: 44p

Waiting time for each period of 45 seconds or part thereof :- 40p

Extra charges

For each passenger carried in excess of two :- 30p

For each article of luggage conveyed outside of the passenger compartment and/or over 2 feet long :-10p to a maximum of 50p

The fouling of the vehicle :- £40

The passenger(s) shall be liable for any additional motorway & crossing tolls, tariff, city centre congestion charges including the Central London congestion charge. Any complaint about this hackney carriage or the driver should be sent to LICENSING DIVISION, CIVIC CENTRE, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, quoting

ANNEX B DRAFT TABLE OF FARES (COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION 29/10/2013)

BOROUGH COUNCIL	Licensed Hackney Carriage GH Table of Maximum Fares		
Tariff One	For the whole distance of 440 yards (~402.3 m) or part thereof:- For each subsequent 220 yards (~201.2 m) or part thereof:- Waiting time for each period of 45 seconds or part thereof:-	£2.80 £0.25 £0.25	Valid from XX XXXX 20XX
Tariff Two	For the whole distance of 440 yards (~402.3 m) or part thereof:- For each subsequent 220 yards (~201.2 m) or part thereof:- Waiting time for each period of 45 seconds or part thereof:-	£4.20 £0.37 £0.37	Applies to journeys commencing: • between midnight and 7am on any day; • on any official Bank Holiday; or • between 6pm and midnight on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve
Tariff Three	For the whole distance of 440 yards (~402.3 m) or part thereof:- For each subsequent 220 yards (~201.2 m) or part thereof:- Waiting time for each period of 45 seconds or part thereof:-	£5.60 £0.50 £0.50	Applies to journeys commencing:
Extra Charges	For each passenger carried in excess of two:- For each item of luggage conveyed outside of the passenger compartment and/or over 2 feet long:- £0.10 per item, to a maximum of £0.50 Soiling requiring the vehicle to be taken out of service for cleaning:- £55.00 Surcharge for payment of fare by credit or debit card (where card payment option is available):- £0.50 The passenger(s) shall be liable for any additional tolls, charges, tariffs, or city centre congestion charges including the Central London congestion charge.	£0.30 sartment ar £0.10 pe £55.00 sayment op £0.50	£0.30 Infment and/or over 2 feet long:- £0.10 per item, to a maximum of £0.50 £55.00 yment option is available):- £0.50 fifs, or city centre congestion charges including the
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Taxi Drivers Association

Petition against proposed tariff 2 time change from 23.00 to midnight and Sunday tariff 2 back to tariff 1

PETITIO

Dacorum Borough Council Licensing Committee

14th January 2014

Head of Licensing Department Dear Sir/Madam,

We the taxi drivers of Dacorum have gathered a signed petition by 268 drivers, sanguinely hoping that persons at the helm will take cognizance of the below points raised and address them at the earliest opportunity. This is a serious matter which affects the livelihood of over 500 drivers and their families, so it requires urgent attention.

We are strongly opposed to the submission put forward by the licensing committee to reverse the current Sunday rate from rate 2 charged at time and half, we also disagree with the 2nd proposal to change the night rate start time from the current 2300 to midnight There a number of factors that need to be taken into consideration:

The majority of the Councils in the country are charging night rate start time from 2300pm, some as early as 2200pm. Example of Councils in surrounding areas:

Watford 2300pm, Chesham 2300pm, Stevenage 2300pm, Milton Keynes 2200, Aylesbury 2300pm, London 2200pm, Oxford 2200pm.

The rate was implemented due to the low number of drivers willing to work unsociable hours. The main reason behind this was the queues of people on the rank and the nature of many clients from bars/pubs causing violence and unrest. The drivers had to endure a lot of abuse from customers and this rate was implemented over 8 years ago to compensate drivers and also to increase driver numbers willing to work these unsociable hours.

Inflation has increased considerably over the last 8 years, the fuel prices have increased by 3 fold. Vehicle insurance has more than doubled, cost of the licensing fees have increased and vehicle MOT's have gone up by 30%, taking rates back to previous standards is a regressive step and is not in the interest of the taxi trade.

The proposed Sunday rates change from tariff 2 (charged at time and half) to single rate 1. The public currently has a vast choice of private hire companies licensed in Dacorum who ALL charge single rate Tariff 1 on Sunday. Hackney carriage turn out on Sundays was meagre at best before the Tariff 2 introduction, this being the main reason for implementing the change. The majority of councils throughout the country charge rate 2 on Sunday, because it is a non working day. Nearly all trades and professions charge in addition to normal rates for anti social working hours. Coupled with this we like to draw the councils attention to the fact that taxi drivers do not receive any, holiday pay, sick pay, pension or redundancy. The drivers currently have to work very long hours to obtain a reasonable wage.

There is also a difference between licensed hackney drivers and private hire drivers, the hackney carriage taxi is more expensive to maintain and run. For instance vehicle insurance for hackney is around 30% more in comparison to private hire

The council needs to take note of our concerns, and the implications these sudden changes are having on the taxi trade. The drivers are disappointed with the current onslaught of changes introduced or proposed and want the council to listen to feedback from the trade more closely before acting.

Restrictions to 10 year vehicle age limit, moving of the main Marlowes taxi rank, restriction for 18 months on any fare increases, are all examples of policies that were being pushed through without proper consultation.

Recommendations:

As an association we would like to recommend keeping the current night rate at the start time of 23:00pm and on Sunday we recommend that the rate be kept at rate 2 as other surrounding councils and to compensate the drivers for working on a Sunday. Even the retail sector has started to compensate their workforce for working on a Sunday.

We as an association are not happy with the procedure used by the committee in regards to proposing these new fare rate changes. We were asked by the licensing department to apply for a minimal fare rise and after initially agreeing to allow the representatives from the association to comment on the small rise, the committee passed the rise without mentioning anything in their agenda or in any prior communications. The licensing committee just proposed the above two fare rate changes without allowing the association to further comment. If there was prior knowledge that this situation would occur, then we would not have agreed to a minimal rise and an 18 month restriction imposed on any further rise. After the committee agreeing to a very small rise which took us nearly one year to achieve, the license committee introduces these two new proposals which takes the rise into a negative reduction in pay therefore we lose more than we gained. We feel we have been treated extremely unjustly.

Also, we would like to bring to your attention that you seek to have consultation replies from individual drivers. The voice of the association should be deemed worthy enough to represent that of the whole trade as that is core objective of the association.

Could we also make a request for 2 people named from below to speak at the February licensing committee meeting.

Please find attached 18 pages of signed petition of 268 drivers opposing the above proposal.

Regards

Tabrez Khan (Chairman)

John Mcilvaney (Association member)

Page 2 of 2

30th November 2013

Petition against fare proposal to change Sunday back to rate 1 & 23:00pm back to midnight

Taxi Drivers Association

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Note: This is for all Hackney and Private hire drivers

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Petition against fare proposal to change Sunday back to rate 1 & 23:00pm back to midnight

30th November 2013

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30th November 2013

Petition against fare proposal to change Sunday back to rate 1 & 23:00pm back to midnight

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30th November 2013

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30th November 2013 Petition against fare proposal to change Sunday back to rate 1 & 23:00pm back to midnight

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Petition against fare proposal to change Sunday back to rate 1 & 23:00pm back to midnight

30th November 2013

Taxi Drivers Association

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Note: This is for all Hackney and Private hire drivers

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30th November 2013

Petition against fare proposal to change Sunday back to rate 1 & 23:00pm back to midnight

Taxi Drivers Association

Note: This is for all Hackney and Private hire drivers

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30th November 2013 Petition against fare proposal to change Sunday back

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ANNEX D INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION RESPONSES

I am pleased that you have asked for consultation about Sunday and from 2300 hrs to 00 00 hrs to be charged as normal rate which is really not good news for taxi drivers. As you know that we were expecting about getting more Benifit from review meeting as due to inflation fuel , insurance , wear and tear , mantainance are expensive with passage of time and if you are cutting down on tariffs that it will be difficult for our survival and will not encourage to make sure availability of taxi on these times. Specially between 2300 to 00 00 hrs we pick all the drunk passengers usually on week ends to clear up town and reduce troubles , fights and many times we bear bad attitude of passengers so normal tarif will discourage to work for that hour. So I request you to please donot consider to change tarif rates on Sunday and 2300 to 0000 hrs. I will be waiting to hear good news from you.

I would like to comments on the changes regarding tariff 2, I am not in favour of the proposed changes in tariff 2 spatially on Sunday As Sunday in not working day and as rank driver it normally take more than an hour and some Time one and half hour to get any fare from the rank ,so it's very unfair to asked hackney driver to work on Holliday at tariff 1. I would kindly suggest not to change the tariff 2

this change will reduce the amount of cars out to work at unsociable times thats why these tariff 2 where introduced on sundays in the first place to encourage more drivers to work the unsociable hours I would like the chance to put a suggestion to the committee I an of the opinion that . it may be a far better to ensure that the safety and standards of Dacorum licensed taxi/ private hire cars is maintained without introducing an age limit on replacement of a vehicle or new licences this would be by implementing the existing compliance test by way of vetting out unsuitable vehicles but this would mean an enforcement officer inspecting the vehicles before it was excepted for licensing.

I was of the opinion that this's is how things where done before the compliance testing was out sourced to a garage.

I feel this is where the standers have slipped. IE visual presentation and hygiene wear and tear of the trim .

In our neighbouring towns they have age limits on there fleet of taxi and a worrying pattern has develop.

drivers are keeping there cars as long as they can continue to pass the test this is resulted in cars upwards of 15 yeas old this is no different to our fleet now so I feel it would make sense to implement the existing compliances test as it was intended thus maintaining safety standards with out the added expense of age limits

in London there are no such age Limits as they use the compliance test to filter out unsuitable vehicle at any stage of its taxi life

And amendment to the compliance would be far simpler way of increasing public safety and standards

Im writing regarding the tariff 2 changes which our council would like to make amendments to. I fully disagree that rate 2 should be taken away on Sunday also timing to be reinforced to midnight instead of 11pm.

My reason as follows, the current work climate sitution within the taxi organisation In hemel hempstead has dropped to the lowest point since the last 6 years and will only get worse. These are reasons due to bunsfield disaster, unemployment and lack of social events locations within hemel.

Drivers have to currently queue for hours to receive a job from the current ranks which the average job ranges from £3.50 to £5.00 so this the current drivers hourly wages which is lower the national wage income set by the government.

On top of this all drivers wear and tear on there vehicles expensive have increased as prices to repairs cars at local dealer are not cheap charges range from £100 per hour plus vat.

Our insurance has increased by 25% average taxi drivers insurance is approx £3,000 per year, our council licences fees have increased by 20% to £240 per year, petrol has increased from 89p pet litre now to £1.40, customers don't see the drivers costing side of things. Also if timing is changed I will have to work longer hours to cover my lost of earnings. This can be danger to customers if drivers are being forced to stay out longer hours to cover their overhead and support their families.

We are classed same as a employee that would be working for the private sector as we provide public service, so we should have rights to earn extra for working on Sunday example anyone works in your office working on sunday would expect lu time or time and half rate for sunday?

I fully understand some clients do express and make comments that certain companies do charge single, my answer to this would be if you called them on way down why dont you call them again.

No one forces public to use the Hackney ranks we here if u need us, but we should be equally paid for our good service we provide.

Overall we have a very risky job at a low wage and I would address that no changes are made as this will damage our trade and rank customers will be affected as drivers will then refuse to work.

my point of view about this mater is u can change Sunday rate 2 to normal rate 1 ,I thing it is good for other trades as well and 2nd rate 2 from midnight is not good caus we can only get a good work on this hour between 23:00to00:00 for this small towen there is many cabs , petrol prices r high, insurance r high as well, that's y I'm against about this fare change system but excluding Sunday

I think not very good for drivers because every thing is going up day by day even fuel is gone up all most double and our pay is still same and now you are thinking even taking of tariff two on Sunday can you tell me will you be work on sunday on your normal pay and midnight is also not good idia I think every thing should same as it is and you should give us pay rise.

The new taxi rise is not enough to cover all the increases that we have incurred in the last 12 months. I now have to work 7 days a week . My hours have changed from 60 hrs per week to 70 hrs per week .My income has gone down by 5000 pounds in the last 12 months we need the time and half to remain at 23.00 hrs until 7.00 Monday to Saturday. Then 7.00 hrs to 24.00 Sunday

would like to protest with regards to the proposed change of rates at time and half. Changing this to start from midnight instead of 23.00 will have an adverse effect on my income which to be honest with you i am bearly surviving at the moment and if this is implemented I feel I would be no longer be able to continue as a taxi driver as I would not be able to meet all the costs which goes along with being a driver.

You may think that we are earning a good wage but due to the number of taxis that Dacorum are licensing it is increasingly hard to make a living.

Can I suggest that rather than punishing the drivers that pay you a fee you should be searching out those that are working illegally in the borough and damaging our earnings.

I agree with Sunday tariff being the same as in the week

I do not agree with the proposed change to the start time of tariff 2 to midnight. With the economic climate and running costs involved this implementation would have a significant impact on earnings and could result in the trade being non viable. Drivers would have to work excessive hours to earn a living and this could impact on public safety if drivers are tired. Furthermore Dacorum drivers would have an unfair disadvantage from the drivers operating from Three Rivers and Chesham whose standards are poor and council regulations are

apparently not actively enforced. This is a real threat and concern to Dacorum residents safety.

I'm totally disagree with this proposal. If all the customer are happy to pay us then it shouldn't be any problem . please leave Sunday as time half and tariff 2 from 23:00. We really appreciate if you don't change these tariffs.

i am writing in regarding the new proposal taxi email i have recieved few days ago.we were hoping to have increased in the fares due to fuel price hike and heavy insurances but unfortunately i was quite surprised that the authority instead of increasing they decreased the fares in their propsal which is quite unfair to the taxi drivers.this taxi businees is sffuering as well in this hard period .if you look at the present situation of the business in the town half of them are shut down due to wrong policies and suggested proposals like that.i never understand the team should help in improving the business not ruining it.there should be a proposal for generating some business for the drivers so they could manage to pay their insurances, fuel.council fees and other expenses etc .

if they cannot improve it atleast dont make things even worse and leave it as it is going. if you cannot increase the prices atleast dont decrease it.

i am new in this field and before i was thinking that i might earn some money in it but at the end i am getting nothing due to heavy insurance, fuel and repairs and other expenses as well.drivers has to wait almost 45 to 55 minutes to get one job so in this situation its very hard to cover your expenses.

ill give one example.

the council staff working 9 to 5 mon to fri .if there would be a propsal that every one should come at 8 to 6 n even on sunday as well with the same money .how do u feel n react? if the public is paying the money during that time there should be no issue ,there is an alternative as well they can use buses or they can call their family to pick them up or they can go by walk .no one is forcing them to use taxi service .if they need fast and good service at that time then there is a price to pay.

FOR GOD SAKE learn from the mistakes of past and please help in genearting this business in am worried as the other business in our town is finishing that might not be the result of taxi industry.

i am sorry to say but i have to say that i didnt like and against this proposal n wish that the licensing team should make good changes for the betterment of taxi business.

I would like to apologise for being too senti and harsh in writing about the proposal .actually i was quite upset n read the proposal which made me more angry and exhausted in my email.now i realise that its too much i ve said n should apologise for that.

You have asked for the comments and i ve given mine and i hope u will accept my appology.

I write to you in relation to proposed changes to Taxis in Dacorum, namely changing Tariff 2 til 12am and removing Tariff 2 on Sundays.

I wish to object to such changes for the following reasons;

Firstly why is there a sudden need for these changes. I would like you to explain why you propose these changes now.

Every other sector is rewarded for working unsociable hours / weekend working, this includes companys such as Sainsburys/Argos who pay staff extra for working on a Sunday. Why do you expect Taxi drivers to lose this benefit. Taxi Companys in Dacorum already only use tariff 1 on booked jobs on a sunday so it is a rank driver who you will be affecting.

Hemel Hempstead is a small town with no night club or borderline 1 club which does not have the best of reputations and a handful of pubs which open later than 12am.

If you return time and a half til 12am how much benefit will we really obtain for working all the way through the evening, not much at all. The train station operates 2 trains after 12am on a Saturday and if youre there by 11pm your lucky to get a job.

Other towns and city's have more pubs, clubs etc so we shouldn't be compared but if you wish this to happen, then what do you say about the towns and citys that have tariff 1 til 6pm then tariff 2 til 12am and then a tariff 3 from 12am.

If you ask anybody they will always say things are expensive to name a few buses, trains, petrol, council tax, car parking etc etc but do you see a reduction in these. NO In conclusion such changes are barbaric and totally unfair to taxi driver. Its about time the Licensing Dept took care of a trade that pays its wages. Its not been 2 months since you raised our fees citing inflation but you are more than happy to remove our benefits. I wish too firmly object to such changes.

i dont agree with the licensing authority's new proposal in taxi fares, changing time and half to midnight and tariff1on sundays its not fair ,prices for everything have gone up a lot plus working unsocial able hours its not fair with the drivers

I wish to object to such changes for the following reasons;

Firstly why is there a sudden need for these changes. I would like you to explain why you propose these changes now.

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I ... want to protest agains't your proposed time change.

Changing the time from 23.00 to midnight and normal time on Sunday instead of time and a half

If this proposed time change is implemented it will be vary difficult to survive as a taxi driver. As you are aware of all the cost of being a taxi driver have gone up e.g. M.O.T, INSURANCE, ROAD TAX, TAXI BADGE, TAXI PLATE, and all the were and tear. And you want us to cut back on prices.

I feel we should have a rise on our prices (meter prise rise) As the price of every thing else around us has gone up.

I object to the council trying to alter the tariff two rates.

I feel that you should not change the time tariff two starts and keep it at 11 pm.

This one hour will makes a lot of difference to my earnings.

Also I want you to keep tariff two for Sundays and not change it to tariff one.

Fuel has increased and other expense such as the renewal of the licence plate, the badge have also increased.

If the changes go ahead this will mean more cars on the road with no where to park on the rank trying to earn the extra money we have lost.

I am not agreed to change the tariff for the following fact-

- 1) There is no busy night life in Hemel Hempstead.
- 2) Have you realise the the rank is so quite, there is no busy.
- 3) Paying higher insurance
- 4) Paying higher petrol money
- 5) Paying higher Maintenance money
- 6) Paying higher road tax
- 7) Paying higher licensing fees
- 8) Paying higher abuse by the customer for one way system in the old high street.
- 9) Geting lower tariff rate about 124 number in the list of uk tariff
- 10) Getting push by the police man in the rank for double queue.

So, Keep the same tariff with the same timing and you can increase the price. But not the discreasing the rate/time and sunday. In Sunday by 2/3 hours we can get a one job. Some of the nights we wait for 2/3 hours but not getting any job in the rank.

I am strongly objecting your offer but you may increse by keeping with old tariff.

I ... want to protest against your proposal time changed if this takes place it will be vary hard to carry on driving as a taxi driver.

Everything in life is going eg mot, tax . Insurance, badge, plate, And you want as to reduce on our prices how can this be fare

I write regarding the current proposal in relation to fees charged by Taxi drivers.

The rates currently being charged were set in 2001 and have been maintained at the same rate since that time.

In stark contrast to our fees remaining the same, the plate fees charged by the council have gone up by 20% in addition to badge fees having increased by 50%.

Living costs have also increased and where other industries are receiving an increase in their salary to cover the cost of the same our fees are being reduced.

The council have proposed that time and a half rates should only be charged from 12am as opposed to the previous agreement of 11pm. The second proposal is that on Sunday's only standard rates should be charged where at the moment we are charging time and a half. I write to inform you that I strongly condemn the above mentioned changes.

I express concerns over the fact that in any other employment, if required to work Sunday's, rates of pay are increased. I fail to understand why it should be different in our case. I also submit that the majority of people take Sunday as a holiday and working on Sunday is in itself unsociable, to then be told that reduced prices will also be applied is unacceptable.

As mentioned other professions are given an incentive to work on Sunday's as pay will be increased. It appears that our profession is being discriminated without a justified basis for doing so. If the proposed changes do go ahead there is no incentive for taxi drivers to give up their Sunday's and work.

I also fail to understand how the council justify reducing our rates when they are consistently increasing their own fees year upon year.

The above mentioned changes are unfair and unrealistic taking into consideration the current economic situation.

I write to you in relation to the proposed changes to Taxis fares in Dacorum, namely changing Tariff 2 from 2300 back to midnight and removing Tariff 2 on Sundays.

I strongly object to such changes for the following reasons;

Firstly we were given these fare rates nearly some 10 years ago and at that time there was not many drivers willing to work on Sundays and at night times, as it wasn't worth working. Especially at night time when you had to take a lot of abuse from people who had consumed excessive amount of alcohol, unsociable hours etc.

The cost of living can not be ignored, which has increased considerably. One example being, the fuel price has tripled over that period from 0.58 pence per litre diesel to £1.40 per litre now.

why do you expect hackney carriage taxi drivers to lose this benefit? Taxi Companies in Dacorum only use tariff 1 on pre-booked jobs on a Sunday, therefore the public already has a choice. You cannot put hackney and private hire drivers into the same category as it is more costly to maintain and run a hackney carriage license taxi.

Hemel Hempstead is a small town with no night club or borderline 1 club which does not have the best of reputations and a handful of pubs which open later than 12 am.

If you return time and a half to midnight how much benefit will we really obtain for working all the way through the evening, not much at all. The train station operates 2 trains after 12 am on a Saturday and if you're there by 11 pm your lucky to get a job.

Other towns and city's have more pubs, clubs etc so we shouldn't be compared but if you wish this to happen, then what do you say about the towns and citys that have tariff 1 til 6pm then tariff 2 til 12am and then a tariff 3 from 12am.

Our fare rate according to the taxi magazine is 122 on the fare league table. If you ask anybody they will always say things are expensive to name a few buses, trains, petrol, council tax, car parking etc etc but do you see a reduction in these. NO in-effect the train company's have put their fares up again this week and the energy companies have also increased their rates in the previous month.

In conclusion such changes are barbaric and totally unfair to taxi drivers. Its about time the Licensing Dept took care of a trade that pays its wages. Its not been 4 months since you raised our fees citing inflation, taxi MOT went up from £200 to £240 (rise of 20%) and taxi licence badge fee went up from £150 to £185. in light of this you are more than happy to propose reversing our rates to those of 10 years ago. What the licencing department doesn't seem to consider is we the taxi drivers have little if any benefits associated with the trade. There is no sick pay, holiday pay, maintenance pay or day in lieu. In some cases, even firms in the retail sector have started to compensate their employees for working on Sundays.

I like to bring to the cabinet's attention that the trade is already being affected by drivers from other surrounding councils working illegally in Dacorum Borough Council and the number of drivers has doubled over the last few years' changes in moving the taxi rank. You can not ignore the rise in fuel and insurance since 2002 to their current rates. Subject to all these changes, it is extremely inconsiderate to reverse our fair rates to the 2002 level. Furthermore, the restriction imposed to have no further rights to apply for fare increase for the next 18 months.

I strongly object to the change to the Sunday tariff being reversed to tariff 1 and changing rate 2 from 2300 back to midnight as such changes will cause a significant unrest in the trade and could potentially lead to strikes in the future. I urge the cabinet to carefully consider all the points mentioned before coming to a conclusion on the proposed rate changes.

I would like to protest against your proposal for the time change.

From 23:00 to 00:00 Sunday to normal time

Mr Hill it is very difficult to survive as a taxi driver in this day and age with every thing been so expensive as you know.

For example: fuel prices, insurance, road tax, wear and tear and not to mention MOT. I cant stress enough about how hard it is for us taxi drivers. It seem that their are so many taxi drivers in the Borough already which makes the income hard and other borough drivers taking our work from high street on week ends.

If we were to look at big organisation such as Tesco their time and half starts at 22:30 on week days time and a half on Saturday and double time on Sunday. People get paid more for working unsocial able hours so why should it be different for us?

If tomorrow you announce to every one at taxi licensing team at the council that they all have to change their hours from 09:00-16:30 to 19:00-02:30 to suit the taxi drivers and they have not got a choice and they will not get PAID more plus they will also have to work bank holiday without any bonus. What sort of respond do you think you will get?

It is very easy to say what others should do without realising what sort of struggle you are going to put them in.

Mr Hill it is my request to you please don't force these new changes because it will make it extremely hard for us to survive both at work and outside work.

I strongly disagree with the fair proposal been put faward to change rate 2 on Sunday back to rate 1 and also the night rate which is now at 23.00 u want to change that back to midnight. I disagree with all this as all the living costs in the past 10 years has gone up insurance, fuel other expenses. i hope you don't do this thanks a lot

I object to the changes the timing of tariff should stay as it is at the moment they is no work after midnight so what is the point of it every thing shuts at midnight The public is used to as it is your suggestions is nothing more than to confuse the general public and penalise driver who are sitting on the ranks on less than minimum wage thax

I am writing to you regarding the changes to tariff 2 times, I believe that the tariffs should be kept as they are.

I would like to put my point forward In regards to changing Sunday as "normal rate " Sunday is a public holiday so it should stay time an half as it has been for a very long time .

I am disputing the proposed changes to Sunday Rate 1 and the proposed rate change between 23.00 hours and 7am.

I do not agree with the changes. I think it's unfair for people who have to work in the night and have to work on Sundays.

I don't agree with fare changing on Sundays from tariff 2 to tariff 1 or during the week from 11pm to 12pm I think they should stay same.

I strongly don't agree with changing of tariff from 2 to 1 on Sunday plus week days from 11pm to 12pm I think it should stay tariff 2 as it is.

I strongly disagree with the proposed changes of tariff from 2 to 1 on Sunday plus week days from 11pm to 12pm

I think it should stay as tariff 2 as it currently is.

I am writing regarding the time and half change on Sunday.

I am very concerned with the change imposed by the council, as drivers currently working in Hemel Hempstead are struggling as it is, imposing these changes will only make the financial stability of drivers more volatile.

Customers as we see it, are more than happy to pay the extra fare, as they understand that they are receiving a taxi service on a Sunday; a day for resting.

Also with the nightclub rush having moved to Watford and St Albans has made it more difficult for drivers to make a substantial earning.

I strongly don't agree with changing of tarrif 2 to 1 Sunday and also week days from 11pm to 12pm.I think it should stay as it is.

in response about taxi tariff change I am not agree the new tariff. I am happy in our current tariff . For the response of public call you may consider Sunday tariff

I totally disagree with this proposal regarding of changing tariffs on Sunday time half back to tariff 1 and tariff 2 start from midnight.and about the age of car these shoudn't be age limit I prefer some of the old cars affordable and spacious and better than some of the new ones. Plz leave sunday as time half and tariff 2 from 23:00.we really appreciate if you don't change these tariffs.

I am disputing the proposed changes to Sunday rate 1 and the proposed rate change between 23hours and 7 am

Not happy with the rate changes it should stay the same

I strongly don't agree with changing of tariff from 2 to 1 on Sunday plus week days from 11pm to 12pm I think it should stay tariff 2 as it is.

To whom it may concern

I am writing in regard to the changes that Dacorum Borough Council are attempting to make on the time and day changes on Rate 2.

As a Hackney Driver I speak on behalf of most of the other hackney drivers, when we disapprove of this recommendation of changing Rate 2 to start at midnight rather than 2300; and we also disapprove of removing Rate 2 on Sundays.

We need the rates to stay as they are because if they were to change it would impact on the income that we all make and it will make our lives harder to make a decent living. In the long run it will make it harder for us to pay for petrol, rent, permit renewals, licence and badge renewals, MOT, Service and running our homes. People using taxis are using us less and less day by day and it has an effect on us taxi drivers as if there is no one using taxis we can't make money.

Yours Sincerely



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Berlham stell Clane Tax'u prinace est show & Shift in Berkhansted, and have done for many years We now have How 5 temes many Cabs on our fleet + Ace, - The Produ from other Brough The population has not grown that much in companion. When I started, & was I plate por 1000 head population (what is it mos? Overlead have gove up, Rowly rate have come clown. So why are you asking us to take a pay crop? when he pubs take to abuse, the runners and the spenses! If & am't broke, don't fix it. Leave alove!

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GET THE POWERS From S POLICE TAXI COMMITION TO BEABLE TO REMOVE INDOUND VICTURES AND THE Drivers OR COMAN COCLET,	THE LAW, OR TAKE MYS TO
So 20 TO Off.	ANGE

-3 DEC/2013e Jani Jares - Herts HPI 1/12/13 Dear Licensing Committee, I would like to comment about the proposal to change the times for tarriff 2 on Sundays to tarreff 1. as I work on a Sunday it would affect me greatley I would earn less money Historicalley it has always been James on a Sunday and customers are used to it, and esquet it to be so. I Rope it will Continue to be tarriff a Sunday. 2 on yours sincerelay

ANNEX **E**TARIFF COMPARISON WITH OTHER NEARBY AUTHORITIES

Authority	Sunday tariff provisions	Evening tariff provisions
Dacorum (current)	150% of regular fare on Sundays	150% of regular fare between 23.00 – 07.00
Aylesbury Vale	Regular fare	125% of regular fare between 23.00 – 05.30
Broxbourne	Flag-drop price at 133%, additional unit price at 150% on Sundays	Flag-drop price at 133%, additional unit price at 150% between 22.00 – 06.00
Central Beds	150% of regular fare on Sundays	150% of regular fare between 23.30 – 06.30
Chiltern	£1.50 surcharge on Sundays	150% of regular fare between 23.00 – 06.00
East Herts	Flag-drop price at 133%, additional unit price at 150% on Sundays	Flag-drop price at 133%, additional unit price at 150% between 22.00 – 06.30
Hertsmere		
Luton	Regular fare	Specified higher rates (≈125% of regular fare) between 00.00 – 06.00
North Herts	150% of regular fare on Sundays	150% of regular fare between 00.00 – 06.00
St Albans	120% of regular fare on Sundays	150% of regular fare between 00.00 – 06.00
Stevenage	40p surcharge on Sundays	150% of regular fare between 23.00 – 06.00
Three Rivers	Regular fare	40p surcharge between 23.00 – 06.00
Watford	Regular fare	Specified shorter distances (≈67% of regular fare) between 23.00 – 06.00
Welwyn & Hatfield		