



## General Licensing Committee

**Date:** Monday, 16 December 2024  
**Time:** 1.45 pm  
**Venue:** Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

**Members (Quorum: 3)**

Derek Beer (Chair), Louise Bown (Vice-Chair), Matt Bell, Les Fry, Jill Haynes, Jack Jeanes, Cathy Lugg, Craig Monks, David Morgan, Emma Parker, Val Potheary, David Shortell, Claudia Webb, Kate Wheller and Sarah Williams

**Chief Executive:** Matt Prosser, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services Meeting Contact

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting, apart from any items listed in the exempt part of this agenda.

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### Agenda

Item		Pages
1.	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
2.	<b>MINUTES</b>	5 - 8
	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024.	
3.	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
	To disclose any pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interests as set out in the adopted Code of Conduct. In making their disclosure councillors are asked to state the agenda item, the nature of the interest and any action they propose to take as part of their declaration. If required, further advice should be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.	

#### **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Representatives of town or parish councils and members of the public who live, work, or represent an organisation within the Dorset Council area are welcome to submit either 1 question or 1 statement for each meeting. You are welcome to attend the meeting in person or via MS Teams to read out your question and to receive the response. If you submit a statement for the committee this will be circulated to all members of the committee in advance of the meeting as a supplement to the agenda and appended to the minutes for the formal record but will not be read out at the meeting.

The first 8 questions and the first 8 statements received from members of the public or organisations for each meeting will be accepted on a first come first served basis in accordance with the deadline set out below.

Further information read [Public Participation - Dorset Council](#)

All submissions must be emailed in full

to John.Miles@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on 11th December 2024.

When submitting your question or statement please note that:

- You can submit 1 question or 1 statement.
- a question may include a short pre-amble to set the context.
- It must be a single question and any sub-divided questions will not be permitted.
- Each question will consist of no more than 450 words, and you will be given up to 3 minutes to present your question.
- when submitting a question please indicate who the question is for (e.g., the name of the committee or Portfolio Holder)
- Include your name, address, and contact details. Only your name will be published but we may need your other details to contact you about your question or statement in advance of the meeting.
- questions and statements received in line with the council's rules for public participation will be published as a supplement to the agenda.
- all questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

#### **5. INCREASE IN TAXI FARES FOR DORSET ZONE**

9 - 20

To finalise the process to consider increasing the maximum level of fares that can be charged by Hackney Carriage Proprietors in the Dorset area, excluding the Weymouth and Portland, zone.

#### **6. URGENT ITEMS**

To consider any items of business which the Chair has had prior notification and considers to be urgent pursuant to section 100B (4) b) of the Local Government Act 1972. The reason for the urgency shall be recorded in the minutes

**7. EXEMPT BUSINESS**

To move the exclusion of the press and the public for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). The public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting whilst the item of business is considered.

**No exempt business scheduled for this meeting.**

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## GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2024

**Present:** Cllrs Derek Beer (Chair), Louise Bown (Vice-Chair), Matt Bell, Les Fry, Jill Haynes, Jack Jeanes, Claudia Webb and Kate Wheller

**Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):**

Lara Aintree (Senior Lawyer - Regulatory), John Newcombe (Service Manager for Licensing & Community Safety), Matthew Turnbull (Democratic and Electoral Services Apprentice), John Miles (Democratic Services Officer) and Megan Rochester (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs Emma Parker, David Morgan and Sarah Williams.

2. **Minutes**

No Minutes to approve as no meetings have been held for the General Licensing Committee.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made at the meeting.

4. **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

5. **Street Trading Controls - Adoption of Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982**

The Service Manager for Licensing and Community Safety introduced the report. He outlined that in order to control street trading in Dorset, Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 needed to be formally adopted, by way of resolution. The Legislation had previously been adopted by some of the predecessor Councils, however it was not Dorset area wide. He requested that the Committee make a recommendation to Full Council to pass a resolution to formally adopt Schedule 4 of the Act, which would enable licensing to implement a new Street Trading Policy.

Proposed by Cllr Jill Haynes, seconded by Cllr Matt Bell.

**Decision:**

- 1. That the Committee recommended that Full Council pass a resolution to formally adopt Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended) which shall apply throughout the Dorset Council administrative area with effect from 6 December 2024, or such later date as is agreed by Council.**
- 2. That all existing street trading delegations and designated streets remain in place subject to any future amendments.**

**6. Street Trading Controls – Publication of New Street Trading Policy for Consultation**

The Service Manager for Licensing and Community Safety presented the report. He explained that the Council was in need of a new Street Trading Policy and had existing policies in Weymouth and Portland, East Dorset and Purbeck and a small number of designations in West Dorset. The existing arrangements were quite complicated as there were a lot of different areas and designations in place with local markets, town councils and a number of prohibited streets and consent streets and the Council was overdue for a new policy.

He informed that the new Policy would give licensing the powers to deal with illegal street trading and potentially alleviate existing problems such as blocking the highway, selling counterfeit goods or trading without permission. The new policy would look at designating all of the streets in Dorset as Consent Streets and require anyone trading within those streets to apply for a consent to trade. The Policy proposals were drafts at this stage and therefore not set in stone. There would be a new fee and pricing structure and the proposal in the policy was to have 4 different types of consent such as, static trader, mobile trader, short term experimental and multiuser permission. The draft Policy would go out for public consultation which would begin at the start of November and run for 12 weeks. The process would involve listing all the responses, make any changes necessary, putting recommendations together and bring it back to this committee for decision. There may be a requirement to go to Overview Committee and an Equalities Impact Assessment was being drafted to review if any vulnerable groups or minorities would be impacted by the new policy.

Proposed by Cllr Les Fry, seconded by Cllr Claudia Webb.

**Decision:**

- 1. The committee agreed the proposed draft Street Trading Policy for public consultation.**
- 2. To authorise the Service Manager Licensing & Community Safety to make any further minor editorial changes to the proposed policy, prior to the document being issued for consultation.**

**7. Increase in Taxi Fares for Dorset Zone**

The Service Manager for Licensing and Community Safety covered the report. He explained that the cost of running a taxi had increased significantly with the cost of fuel and insurance. There had been quite a few years without any increases on the maximum tariff that could be charged, which had resulted in some big jumps previously. The trade had expressed that they preferred smaller, regular increases to keep up with the cost providing the service. Last year there was an increase in Hackney fares for Weymouth and this year there had been a request from Hackney Carriage operators in the rest of Dorset. He informed that this would not stifle competition as operators did not have to charge the maximum fare but would allow them to charge a little bit more where appropriate. A preliminary consultation with the trade had been conducted, in which they had been generally supportive. The public would then be consulted by way of public notice and once the responses came back to the Committee and if approved, the recommendation would then go to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder.

Proposed by Cllr Jill Haynes, seconded by Cllr Les Fry.

**Decision:**

**That the Licensing Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member for Health and Housing that they:**

- 1. Authorise the undertaking of the statutory public consultation on the suggested tariff increase.**
- 2. Agree that the new tariff will come into effect on 1 January 2025 if no objections are received after the public consultation.**

**8. Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

**9. Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

**Duration of meeting:** 10.00 - 10.30 am

**Chairman**

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## General Licensing Committee

23 October 2024

### Increase in Taxi Fares for Dorset Zone

#### For Recommendation to the Portfolio Holder

**Cabinet Member and Portfolio:**

Cllr G Taylor, Health and Housing

**Local Councillor(s):**

All Councillors

**Executive Director:**

Jan Britton, Executive Lead for Place

Report Author: Aileen Powell

Title: Licensing Team Leader

Tel: 01258 484022

Email: aileen.powell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

**Report Status:** Public

**Brief Summary:** To finalise the process to consider increasing the maximum level of fares that can be charged by Hackney Carriage Proprietors in the Dorset area, excluding the Weymouth and Portland, zone.

**Recommendations:** To be updated if any consultation responses are received.

**Reason for Recommendation:** To ensure openness and transparency in the Council's decision making, and to ensure that those persons affected by changes are given the opportunity to have an input into it.

## 1. **Background**

- 1.1 The Dorset Council Taxi Licensing Policy split the Council's area into two zones, see paragraphs 2.16 - 2.19 of the Policy which is attached in full at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 sets out the legislative provisions for setting the tariff. The legislation is attached at Appendix 2.

## 2. **New Fares**

- 2.1 The fares for the Dorset Zone were last changed in April 2022, when the new Taxi Licensing Policy came into effect. Prior to this they were changed by the various predecessor Councils on an 'ad hoc' basis as and when the trade requested it.
- 2.2 A statutory public consultation has been carried out by advertising the increase for 2 weeks in the Public Notice section of the Echo and the Bridport News. At the time of writing no responses have been received. The consultation runs to the 9 December and any responses received up to that date will be added as supplementary information. If no responses are received by that date the Committee meeting will be cancelled and the changes can come into effect on 1 January 2025.

## 3. **Financial Implications**

The funding for the public consultation of the fares came from existing budgets. The Taxi and Private Hire Licensing regime is self-funding, so any advertising costs are met from this. There are no further financial implications for Dorset Council arising from the recommendations of this report. However, subject to the outcome of the consultation, passengers may see an increase in the amount they are charged for their journeys.

4. **Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications**

There are no negative implications arising from the recommendations contained within this report in terms of meeting the Council's climate change obligations.

5. **Well-being and Health Implications**

There could potentially be an impact on the health and wellbeing of the public if the hackney carriage fares are set too high, which could make this form of transport inaccessible to some. The same could however be said if the fares are set too low resulting in a reduction of vehicles as they become uneconomical to run.

6. **Other Implications**

There are no other implications arising from the recommendations contained within this report in terms of impacts on other service areas within the Council.

7. **Risk Assessment**

HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

8. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

An EqIA was prepared as part of the wider Dorset Council Taxi Licensing Policy consultation.

9. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Dorset Council Taxi Licensing Policy

Appendix 2 Legislation

Appendix 3 Existing Tariff

Appendix 4 Proposed Tariff

10. **Background Papers**

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

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# Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

## 1976 CHAPTER 57

### PART II

#### HACKNEY CARRIAGES AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

##### **65 Fixing of fares for hackney carriages.**

- (1) A district council may fix the rates or fares within the district as well for time as distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the arrangements for the hire of a vehicle, to be paid in respect of the hire of hackney carriages by means of a table (hereafter in this section referred to as a “table of fares”) made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section.
- (2)
  - (a) When a district council make or vary a table of fares they shall publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district a notice setting out the table of fares or the variation thereof and specifying the period, which shall not be less than fourteen days from the date of the first publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which objections to the table of fares or variation can be made.
  - (b) A copy of the notice referred to in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall for the period of fourteen days from the date of the first publication thereof be deposited at the offices of the council which published the notice, and shall at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment.
- (3) If no objection to a table of fares or variation is duly made within the period specified in the notice referred to in subsection (2) of this section, or if all objections so made are withdrawn, the table of fares or variation shall come into operation on the date of the expiration of the period specified in the notice or the date of withdrawal of the objection or, if more than one, of the last objection, whichever date is the later.
- (4) If objection is duly made as aforesaid and is not withdrawn, the district council shall set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date, on which the

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*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Section 65. (See end of Document for details)*

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table of fares shall come into force with or without modifications as decided by them after consideration of the objections.

- (5) A table of fares made or varied under this section shall have effect for the purposes of the Act of 1847 as if it were included in hackney carriage byelaws made thereunder.
- (6) On the coming into operation of a table of fares made by a council under this section for the district, any hackney carriage byelaws fixing the rates and fares or any table of fares previously made under this section for the district, as the case may be, shall cease to have effect.
- (7) Section 236(8) (except the words “when confirmed”) and section 238 of the <sup>M1</sup>Local Government Act 1972 (except paragraphs (c) and (d) of that section) shall extend and apply to a table of fares made or varied under this section [<sup>F1</sup>by a district council in England] as they apply to byelaws made by a district council [<sup>F2</sup>in England] .
- [<sup>F3</sup>(7A) Section 8(5) and section 19 of the Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Act 2012 shall extend and apply to a table of fares made or varied under this section by a council for a county or county borough in Wales as they apply to byelaws made by a council for a county or county borough in Wales.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 65(7) inserted (31.3.2015) by [Local Government Byelaws \(Wales\) Act 2012 \(anaw 2\)](#), s. 22(2), [Sch. 2 para. 10\(2\)\(a\)](#); S.I. 2015/1025, art. 2(r) (with art. 3)
- F2** Words in s. 65(7) inserted (31.3.2015) by [Local Government Byelaws \(Wales\) Act 2012 \(anaw 2\)](#), s. 22(2), [Sch. 2 para. 10\(2\)\(b\)](#); S.I. 2015/1025, art. 2(r) (with art. 3)
- F3** S. 65(7A) inserted (31.3.2015) by [Local Government Byelaws \(Wales\) Act 2012 \(anaw 2\)](#), s. 22(2), [Sch. 2 para. 10\(3\)](#); S.I. 2015/1025, art. 2(r) (with art. 3)

#### Marginal Citations

- M1** 1972 c. 70.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Section 65.

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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976,**

**PART II SECTION 65(2)(a)**

**FIXING OF FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES**

Dorset Council are proposing that the following Table of Fares which will come into effect on 1 April 2022 for the whole of the district **apart from** the area known as the Weymouth & Portland Zone, which is the area previously covered by Weymouth & Portland Borough Council.

<b>Tariff 1: Day Rate</b>	Chargeable from 7am until 10pm
Initial Charge	£3.00
First Mile	£4.40
Each Additional Mile	£2.80

<b>Tariff 2: Evening Rate</b>	Chargeable from 10pm until 7am
Initial Charge	£4.50
First Mile	£6.60
Each Additional Mile	£4.20

<b>Tariff 3: Day Rate</b>	Chargeable on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, Plus from 6pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve
Initial Charge	£6.00
First Mile	£8.80
Each Additional Mile	£5.60

<b>Extras</b>	
<b>NO CHARGE FOR ANY ASSISTANCE DOG OR WHEELCHAIR</b>	
Proprietors of Hackney Carriages licensed to carry and actually carrying 5, 6, 7, or 8 passengers are entitled to Charge 1 and ½ times each Tariff.	
For the soiling of the vehicle by the passenger(s) / animals	£100
<b>For each item of luggage, bicycle, perambulator or animal</b>	30p

Detailed Breakdown	Tariff 1	Tariff 2	Tariff 3
Initial distance (All tariffs)	880.03 yards		
Subsequent additional distance units	125.71 yards		
Subsequent additional fare units	20 pence	30 pence	40 pence
Time unit (meter not recording distance)	60 seconds	60 seconds	60 seconds
Each additional time unit	30 pence	40 pence	60 pence

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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976,**

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<b>Tariff 1: Day Rate</b>	Chargeable from 7am until 10pm
Initial Charge	£3.00
First Mile	£4.80
Each Additional Mile	£3.00

<b>Tariff 2: Evening Rate</b>	Chargeable from 10pm until 7am
Initial Charge	£4.50
First Mile	£7.20
Each Additional Mile	£4.50

<b>Tariff 3: Day Rate</b>	Chargeable on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, Plus from 6pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve
Initial Charge	£6.00
First Mile	£9.60
Each Additional Mile	£6.00

<b>Extras</b>	
<b>NO CHARGE FOR ANY ASSISTANCE DOG OR WHEELCHAIR</b>	
Proprietors of Hackney Carriages licensed to carry <u>and actually carrying</u> 5, 6, 7, or 8 passengers are entitled to Charge 1 and ½ times each Tariff.	
For the soiling of the vehicle by the passenger(s) / animals	£100
<b>For each item of luggage, bicycle, perambulator or animal</b>	30p
<b>Booking Fee for Pre-Booked Journeys</b>	90p

<b>Detailed Breakdown</b>	<b>Tariff 1</b>	<b>Tariff 2</b>	<b>Tariff 3</b>
Initial distance (All tariffs)	704 yards		
Subsequent additional distance units	117.33 yards		
Subsequent additional fare units	20 pence	30 pence	40 pence
Initial waiting time	3 minutes 48 seconds		
Time unit (meter not recording distance)	38 seconds		
Each additional time unit	20 pence	40 pence	60 pence

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