
Cabinet Member for City Services

29th July 2026

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor P Hetherton

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

Ward(s) affected:

All Wards

Title:

Proposed Variation to Hackney Carriage Fares and Authorisation to Advertise

Is this a key decision?

'No – Although the matter will affect all Wards in the City, it is not anticipated that the impact will be significant'

Executive Summary:

This report seeks approval to advertise a proposed variation to Coventry's Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff Table following a request from Unite Union, as representatives of the Coventry taxi trade. The proposal would retain the existing start fares but reduce the initial distance and time covered by those fares, resulting in fares moving to the next increment sooner. If approved, the proposed variation will be advertised in accordance with the statutory process, allowing a 14-day period for objections. Any objections received will be reported back to the Cabinet Member for consideration before a final decision is made; if no objections are received, the revised tariff will be implemented.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for City Services is recommended to:

1. Consider the proposed fare increase submitted by Unite Union, as representatives of the Coventry taxi trade.
2. Approve the proposal, subject to statutory advertisement and consideration of any objections received.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix A – 2022 Hackney Carriage Fare Table

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title:

Proposed Variation to Hackney Carriage Fares and Authorisation to Advertise

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 Hackney Carriage fares are regulated by the City Council, with the most recent increase implemented in August 2022 (2022 Hackney Carriage Fare Table at Appendix A). While the Council does not have powers to directly regulate private hire fares, it is customary in Coventry for private hire fares to reflect Hackney Carriage fares. The regulation of Hackney Carriage fares is intended to protect passengers who hire taxis from the street or a rank, where there is limited opportunity to negotiate the fare.
- 1.2 Unite Union, as representatives of the Coventry taxi trade, has requested a variation to the Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff Table.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed to reduce the initial distance covered by the starting fare from 0.922 km to 0.76 km, and to reduce the initial waiting time covered from 4.5 minutes, or part thereof, to 3.7 minutes, or part thereof. The starting fares would remain unchanged at £3.80 for daytime journeys, £4.60 for night-time journeys and £4.90 for bank holiday journeys.

Although the starting fare would remain the same, passengers would reach the next fare increment sooner. This would result in an increase in the overall fare payable for daytime journeys.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 Unite Union (the Coventry taxi trade representatives) have been consulted and given their preferred fare rate.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 It is proposed that the fare variation is advertised in accordance with the statutory process. If objections are received, these will be reported to a further Cabinet Member meeting for consideration on 15 September 2026. If no objections are received, the revised meter rate will be programmed during the week commencing 7 August 2026.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Resources and Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

- 5.1 Financial implications

The report is concerning the fares charged by the driver to customers, of which the Council does not receive any revenue. Taxi Licensing is ring fenced; the office is funded by licences and other charges by the licensed drivers, vehicle proprietors and operators. At this point the Council does not have any data to suggest that an increase, decrease or the fares remaining the same will have an impact on the numbers of licensed drivers, vehicle proprietors and operators continuing to be licensed and applying for licences.

5.2 Legal implications

Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 sets out the statutory process for varying Hackney Carriage fares. This requires public notice of the proposed changes and a 14-day period for objections. Any objections received must be considered by the Cabinet Member before the proposed fare changes, or any alternative variation, can be implemented.

6. Other implications

None

6.1 How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan

(<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan>)

The proposal supports the One Coventry Plan by helping to maintain safe, accessible and reliable taxi services for residents, visitors and businesses. This contributes to safer communities, improved access to services and a more active and vibrant city.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Through established reporting and governance arrangements.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

None

6.4 Equalities / EIA

None

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment

None

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

The proposed variation is expected to support safe, available and good-value taxi services in Coventry, benefiting partner organisations and others who rely on taxis to support access, transport and community safety.

Report author(s):**Name and job title:**

Mick Coggins, Senior Licensing & Enforcement Officer

Directorate:

Law, Governance and Safer Communities

Tel and email contact:

024 7683 2297

Mick.Coggins@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Debbie Cahalin-Heath	Strategic Manager – Regulation & Communities	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	30/06/2026	06/07/2026
Davina Blackburn	Strategic Lead – Regulation & Communities	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	06/07/2026	17/07/2026
Caroline Taylor	Governance Services Officer	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	08/07/2026	08/07/2026
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Richard Shirley	Lead Accountant	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	08/07/2026	08/07/2026
Legal: Syeda Ahmed	Barrister Regulatory Team	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	08/07/2026	14/07/2026
Director: Julie Newman	Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	08/07/2026	13/07/2026
Members: Cllr Hetherton	Cabinet Member for City Services		06/07/2026	16/07/2026

This report is published on the council's website:

www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings



HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES IN COVENTRY

1. For journeys commencing and ending within the City of Coventry

Unless a lower fare is agreed before the journey starts:

	Day-Time (6am to 10pm)	Night-Time (10pm to 6am)	Holidays (See below)
For the first 0.922 Km (Approx. ⁶ / ₁₀ mile) or 4.5 minutes (or part)	£3.80	£4.60	£4.90
Then for every 0.162 Km (Approx. ¹ / ₁₀ mile) or 48 seconds (or part)	30p	30p	35p

When the speed is below approximately 8 miles per hour only the time charge applies.

Soiling/Cleaning Charge: £40

Holidays	Christmas (6pm 24 Dec to 6am 27 Dec)	Easter Sunday & Monday May Day Bank Holiday Spring Bank Holiday Summer Bank Holiday (For 24 hours starting at 00.00am on the day)
	New Year (6pm 31 Dec to 6am 2 Jan)	

2. For journeys ending outside the City of Coventry

The law does not permit a taxi driver to charge more than the price shown on the meter (which will be calculated at the rates shown above) unless the journey ends outside the City boundary and you and the driver have agreed a different fare BEFORE the journey commences.

IN CASE OF COMPLAINT - Note the driver's badge number & taxi number and Telephone 024 7683 2183 or write to the Taxi Licensing Office,

Whitley Depot, 259 London Road, Coventry CV3 4AR or email: taxi.licensing@coventry.gov.uk

AUGUST 2022