
Cabinet Member for City Services

15th September 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:

To consider representations to the Proposed Variation of Hackney Carriage Fares

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:

Following a Cabinet Member for City Services report on the 29th July 2026 and two weeks of advertising, this report seeks the Cabinet Member's approval to implement a proposed variation to Coventry's Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff Table, following a request from Unite Union, as representatives of the Coventry taxi trade, subject to objections in this report. 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.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for City Services is recommended to:

1. Consider the representations attached.
2. Having considered the representations received during the statutory consultation period, approve the proposed variation to the Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff Table, as set out in this report, on the basis that the proposal represents a reasonable and proportionate adjustment which supports the continued provision of safe, accessible and reliable taxi services in Coventry.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix A – 2022 Hackney Carriage Fare Table

Appendix B – Representations received during the consultation period

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:**To consider representations to the Proposed Variation of Hackney Carriage Fares****1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1 The Council regulates Hackney Carriage fares, last increased in August 2022 (Appendix A). Although private hire fares are not directly regulated, they usually reflect Hackney Carriage fares in Coventry. Fare regulation protects passengers who hire taxis from the street or a rank, where there is limited scope to negotiate.
- 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 The proposal is to keep the current starting fares the same but reduce the distance and waiting time included within those fares. The initial distance would reduce from 0.922 km to 0.76 km, and the initial waiting time would reduce from 4.5 minutes, or part of a minute, to 3.7 minutes, or part of a minute. The starting fares would remain £3.80 for daytime journeys, £4.60 for night-time journeys and £4.90 for bank holiday journeys.

As a result, passengers would reach the next fare increment sooner, which would increase the overall fare payable for journeys.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 Unite Union, as representatives of the Coventry taxi trade, was consulted and provided its preferred fare rate. The proposed fare variation was also advertised for 14 days from 7th August 2026 in the Observer, on the Council's website and at the Council House. Disability groups, passenger organisations and taxi licence holders were also contacted.
- 3.2 Three representations were received: one in support of the increase, one objecting to it and one where the position is unclear. These representations are included at Appendix B.
- 3.3 As an objection has been received the Cabinet Member must consider the representations.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 If approved, the revised taxi meter rate will be programmed during the week commencing 28th September 2026. The updated fare tariff would take effect once the meter changes have been completed.

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

- 5.1 Financial implications

The proposed fare variation relates to charges paid directly by passengers to licensed drivers; the Council receives no income from these fares. Taxi Licensing is ring-fenced and funded through licence fees and related charges paid by licensed drivers, vehicle proprietors and operators. There is currently no evidence to suggest that a fare increase, reduction or no change would affect licence numbers or future applications.

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 representations. Any representations 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, accessible and reliable taxi services in Coventry, benefiting partner organisations and service users who depend on taxis for transport and access to services.

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

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Service Area	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
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Caroline Taylor	Governance Services Officer	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	01/09/2026	02/09/2026
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Richard Shirley	Lead Accountant	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	01/09/2026	03/09/2026
Syeda Ahmed	Barrister Regulatory Team	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	01/09/2026	02/09/2026
Davina Blackburn	Strategic Lead – Regulation & Communities	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	03/09/2026	03/09/2026
Julie Newman	Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	03/09/2026	03/09/2026
Cllr Hetherton	Cabinet Member for City Services		02/09/2026	03/09/2026

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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

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 August 2026 15:19
To: Taxi Licensing <taxi.licensing@coventry.gov.uk>
Subject: O

Sent from my iPhone

All e-mails are monitored by Coventry City Council's ICT Security, using Mimecast.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 August 2026 05:52
To: Taxi Licensing
Subject: Vehicle fare tariff changes

Sent from my iPhone I would like to tell cabinet members NOT to increase the fares but decrease the tariff that we might get more business which they are not going to listen nothing new there but it's worth trying.

All e-mails are monitored by Coventry City Council's ICT Security, using Mimecast.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 August 2026 15:05
To: Taxi Licensing <taxi.licensing@coventry.gov.uk>
Subject: Fair tariff change

Hi

I'm a Hackney Taxi Driver

We should leave the tariff as it is.
Uber has taken alot of the trade already, doesn't make sense to raise tariff in the current economic climate.

All e-mails are monitored by Coventry City Council's ICT Security, using Mimecast in accordance with the Regulations of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.