

# Lancaster City Council Hackney Carriage Fare Review 2024

**From:** licensing <licensing@lancaster.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Lancaster City Council Hackney Carriage Fare Review 2024

Good afternoon,

At Licensing Committee on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024, members considered a report that set out a number of options to amend Hackney Carriage Fares for the coming year. [Agenda for Licensing Committee on Thursday, 4th January 2024, 1.00 p.m. - Lancaster City Council](#)

As you may be aware, the approved methodology, adopted by the Councils Cabinet in April 2022 after a period of consultation with the licensed trade is to apply retail price index (RPI) across the tariff (rounding down to nearest 5p). For consistency, RPI from November is to be used for the calculations, with any changes being applied annually.

Retail price index for November 2023 was 6.1%, applying RPI to the current tariff changes only the flag fall by 20p/30p/40p respectfully, it would not affect the rolling rate.

Members were presented with 4 options to consider; they were as follows.

1. Maintain current table of fares.
2. Apply RPI (6.1%) across the tariff and round to nearest 5p.
3. Deregulate Fare Setting (this would allow fares to be set by each individual proprietor)
4. In addition to option 1 or 2, apply an additional charge for fares taken after a set time. Eg 20.00, 21.00 or 22.00.

One member of the Licensing Committee suggested an alternative option (5), amending the yardage to 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile and increasing the rolling rate by 5p/7p/10p respectfully. Flag fall would remain as is. The thinking behind this is to align Lancaster with the national average for a 2-mile journey.

Option 4 was included due to concerns raised by representatives of the nighttime economy, including Business Improvement District and Pubwatch as they believe by including an additional charge for fares taken after a certain time will encourage drivers to work evenings, when they feel the shortage of drivers is affecting local businesses. It was suggested that £4.00 for journeys taken after 21.00 could apply. (much like the booking fee available now).

The purpose of this email is to gain your opinion on how members of Licensing Committee should progress with the Fare Review 2024 by answering the following questions.

1. What is your preferred option.
2. How do you feel applying an additional fare for journeys post 21.00 will affect the local licensed trade?

Please respond by way of return of email to [licensing@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@lancaster.gov.uk) by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Please share this email with those without access to email and encourage responses, your feedback will shape the decisions taken by members of Licensing Committee.

Many thanks,

Jen

**Jennifer Curtis | Licensing Manager | Governance | Lancaster City Council | Morecambe Town Hall  
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