

Cheltenham Borough Council

Cabinet Member Decision

Date of Decision: 2 February 2026

Accountable member:

Councillor Victoria Atherstone, Cabinet Member for Safety and Communities

Accountable officer:

Michelle Bignell, Licensing and Public Protection Manager

Ward(s) affected:

All

Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

Decision:

1. The Cabinet Member for Safety and Communities, is recommended to approve the proposed fare increase as set out below for consultation; and
2. Subject to there being no objections raised in accordance with the statutory provisions, to delegate authority to the Head of Public Protection to implement the proposed fare increase.
3. If there are objections, delegated authority is requested for the Head of Public Protection to make minor adjustments to the draft tariffs prior to formal consultation and/ or implementation, in light of any consultation responses received.

The proposed increases are shown below:

1. Approve the draft fares attached at Appendix 2.

Reasons for the decision:

To ensure the maximum fares chargeable reflect the costs which will be incurred by a good owner-driver who spends whatever is necessary to operate and maintain his hackney carriage to a high standard.

Alternative options:

The authority can decide not to increase hackney carriage fares as part of this review although this option is not considered desirable as it would result in an owner-driver not being able to fully recover the costs which will be incurred by them to operate and maintain their hackney carriage to a high standard.

Consultation and feedback:

If the proposed increases are approved, the licensed trade will be consulted for 14 days for their views on the proposals.

Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 prescribes that the authority must formally consult if it proposes to set or vary hackney carriage fares.

It must do so by publishing a notice in a local newspaper setting out the variation and specifying a period and means of objecting. The specified period cannot be less than 14 days.

If no objections are made, or any made are withdrawn, the proposed fares will take effect on the specified date. However, if objections are made and not withdrawn, the authority must set a further date, not later than two months after the initial date, on which the proposed fares shall come into force with or without modifications as decided after consideration of any objections.

Therefore, it is requested that delegated authority is given to the Head of Public Protection to make minor adjustments to the draft schedule of tariffs attached on the basis of any comments received from members of the licensed trade and/ or the public either following the informal consultation referred to above or following the end of the formal consultation period.

It is proposed that if no objections are received and consultation is started promptly that any increase shall be implemented on 25 February 2026 by the Head of Service.

Background information:

Under section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the authority is empowered to set the maximum fares for hackney carriage vehicles licensed by it.

The last review was undertaken in 2025 when Cabinet approved a 7% increase (due to no review being carried out for 2 years). Since that review running costs have continued to increase. Also, that review did not see an amendment to additional charges other than the soiling charge.

Hackney Carriage fares reviews are usually undertaken annually using the methodology adopted by Cabinet in [2019](#). On this occasion, the methodology has not been used, and the proposal has been submitted by the Cheltenham Taxi Driver's Association who have carried out their own consultation. This saw more than 50% of their membership voting in favour of the increase. The association has a membership of over 120 members (there are 262 licensed hackney drivers in the Borough).

The Cheltenham Taxi Drivers' Association' co-chairs met officers of the council in January 2026, and the licensing team agreed to conduct a consultation (subject to Cabinet member approval) to see if the increase is supported by the trade.

Rate of inflation 2025/26

According to the Office of National Statistics, the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by an average of 3.2% over 2025/26 since the last increase which supports the requested increase.

The revised fare card is attached at Appendix 2 reflecting the proposed increases in comparison with the current tariffs.

Finance Approval:

There are no direct financial implications to this paper apart from the costs of the consultation which cannot be avoided. These costs are minimal and can be covered by current budgets.

Signed:

Date:

Interests declared:

None.

Signed:

Date: