

Trade Times

Brought to you by Cheltenham Borough Council Licensing

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Hackney Carriage fare increase

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Proposed Hackney Carriage Fare Increase

On 7 February 2017 the council's Cabinet approved a proposed 6% fare increase for Cheltenham Hackney Carriages.

The fare increase was calculated using the Council's adopted fare formula and takes into account the actual cost of operating a hackney carriage. The 6% also took into account the time that has elapsed since the last review.

The fare increase will be subject to a public consultation for 14 days in accordance with the statutory requirements on the council. The revised fares will be published in the Echo under the public notices section and a copy of the public notice will also be displayed at the Municipal Offices for inspection.

Subject to there being no objections, the increased fare rate will be in place for the 2017 race meeting in March.

How we calculate fares

The council has an adopted fare formula for calculating hackney carriage fares.

The formula compares the running costs of a Cheltenham licensed hackney carriage vehicle year on year to produce a running cost increase (or decrease). This is then used to determine the percentage change in running cost that informs any decision with regards fare changes.

The fare formula takes into account the following running costs:

- Vehicle cost
- Replacement parts
- Tyres
- Service labour
- Fuel
- Insurance
- Miscellaneous (such as licence fees)
- Average national earnings

Sheriff Wayfarer taxi meters

The council has been advised that the Sheriff Wayfarer taxi meter is now obsolete.

This means that it can no longer be repaired or more importantly be reprogrammed.

The manufacturer has therefore advised that vehicles fitted with this type of meter will have to replace their meter in order to take advantage of the fare increase.

Timescales

- ✓ Cabinet decision: 7 February
- ✓ Consultation: 8-22 February
- ✓ Implementation*: 23 February

* Subject to any objections received. If there are objections, a further period of up to two months must be set before the revised fares can be implemented.



Raceweek 2017

The 2017 Gold Cup Week will be held on the 14th of March to the 17th of March this year.

Taxi Marshals

There will be enhanced taxi marshal cover this year.

Montpellier Rank

Two marshals 22:00—02:00 on all four of the race days.

Promenade Rank

In addition, the council will be deploying metal crowd control barriers on the Promenade to assist the marshals and drivers to manage the queues.

Day	17:00— 04:00	21:00— 04:00
Tuesday	2	1 (additional)
Wednesday	2	1 (additional)
Thursday	2	2 (additional)
Friday	3	2 (additional)

Ranks

As usual, the Promenade Taxi Rank will be extended to make additional spaces available.

Officers working

This year we will again be assisted by enforcement officers from Gloucester City Council.

On each of the four nights, there will be 4 officers out between 20:30 and 03:00 dedicated to taxi enforcement work.

We will again have a dedicated duty phone number available for the trade to use to report any suspicious and illegal taxi/PH activity.

The number is 07836727556.

The number will be available from 20:30 to 03:00 on all four nights.

There will be day time cover but this will be limited due to the officer resource demand at night.

Pickup and drop off

There are no changes to the pick up and drop off services at the racecourse.

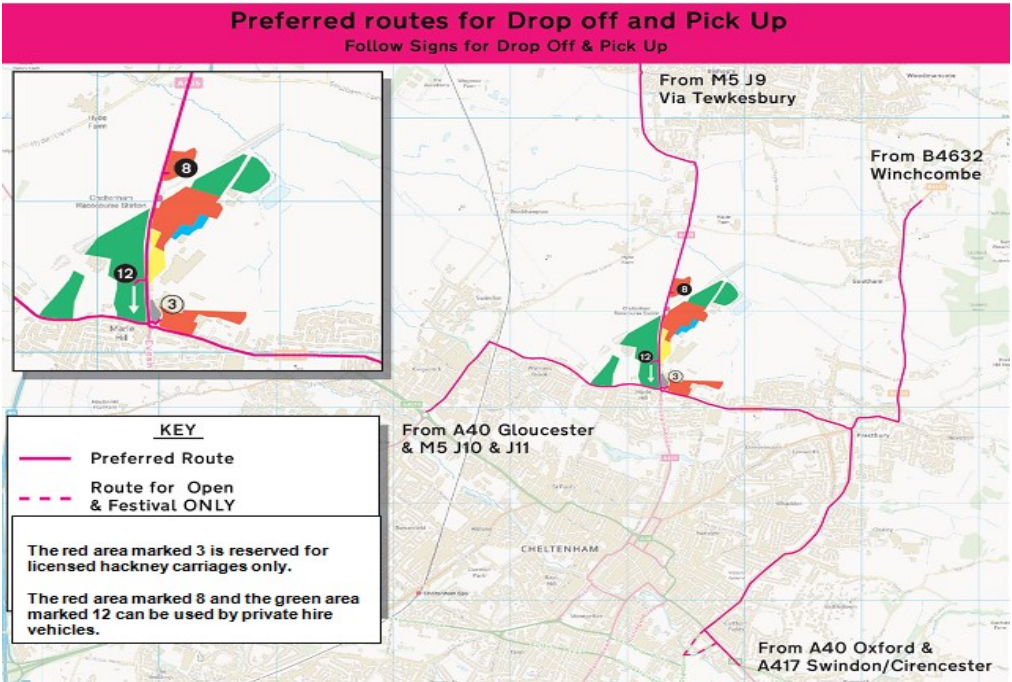
Prosecutions Update

On Monday 23 January 2017 the Council was successful in prosecuting a seventh driver for unlawfully plying for hire in Cheltenham.

The driver was licensed by Tewkesbury Borough Council and accepted a fare to Gloucester. He was caught as part of a joint Gloucester and Cheltenham test purchase operation.

Hot spots for illegal activity

On the weekend of the 28th of January licensing officers were out checking “illegal taxi” hotspots as reported by the trade. Officers observed no suspicious activities. Officers will continue to do this monitoring of those areas during night shifts.





Policy Review in 2017

The council's policy on taxi and private hire licensing is due to be reviewed and updated this year as part of the council's 3 year policy review cycle.

To best facilitate this review, the council will again look to set up a working group consisting of officers, Councillors and trade representatives. The policy working group will review the current policy with a view of putting forward, if necessary, proposals for changes to it.

The council is aware however that not every licensed driver will 1) have the opportunity to sit on a working group and/or 2) be represented on the working group. We will therefore, for the first time, also setup a number of workshops to give other drivers and interested parties an opportunity to feed into the review process.

The council is aware that there are a number of issues that are affecting the trade at the moment which the trade feels should be aired.

The council considers this policy review an opportune time and the right environment to raise these issues so that due consideration to these can be given.

Ultimately, decisions about policy and policy adoption will be made by the responsible elected Councillors not officers which is the reason why the policy review is an oppor-

ture time to raise these issues. Furthermore, it is likely that the issues are policy related.

Officers will supply the trade and trade representatives with further information in February once arrangements have been finalised.

Policy Issues

Immigration Act: A reminder

Officers would like to remind drivers of the new Immigration Act requirements.

It is now a legal requirement for the council to verify the immigration status of all drivers licensed by this council. The legislation makes it clear that it is irrelevant whether the licence holder was, or not, born in the UK.

Given that the council is under a statutory obligation to undertake the immigration check, we would request that drivers please cooperate with the officers' requests to produce the prescribed documentation to satisfy the new requirement.

The council cannot lawfully issue a licence (new or renewal) without seeing and recording the evidence showing immigration status.

Therefore drivers who refuse to comply with the requirement risk losing their licences.

Remember!

Weekly open sessions

Mondays: 10am - 1pm

Wednesdays: 1pm - 4pm

Fridays: 10am - 1pm

Report it!

You have to tell the council when:

- You change your address
- Your vehicle has sustained damage
- You receive points on your driving licence
- You are convicted, charged or cautioned for an offence
- You sell your licensed vehicle
- There is a change in your medical fitness

Lost property

Drivers should at the end of each journey inspect their vehicles to ensure that no property has been left behind by passengers. If a passenger has left anything behind in a licensed vehicle, the property must be taken to the Hester's Way police station.

Renew your licence on time

The council will as a matter of courtesy send reminder letters to licence holders to remind them to renew their licences on time. It is however the individual's own responsibility to ensure renewal applications are submitted on time.

Replacing your licensed vehicle

If you are planning to replace your licensed vehicle or license a vehicle for the first time, you must in the first instance call the licensing section to check whether the vehicle to be licensed complies with the council's policy and fitness requirements. Never buy a vehicle without checking with the licensing team .

Lost property in licensed vehicles

The council gets regular complaints and enquiries from passengers who have left property in taxis.

Unfortunately the significant majority of these passengers are never able to recover their lost property because they are unable to recall sufficient details of the taxi they took or because the property is not handed in.

The council will shortly be launching an awareness campaign to educate the public on what the rules are and how they can ensure they have the right information to help them identify the taxi they took if they need this information to recover lost items.

In addition, the council would like to remind drivers of the rules. The local Hackney Carriage byelaws require all drivers of a licensed hackney carriage vehicle to thoroughly inspect their vehicles at the end of each journey (or when practically possible) to check for any items left behind. **Any items found must be handed in to a police station which, in Cheltenham's case is the police station in Hester's Way.**



Hester's Way Police Station Cheltenham, Princess Elizabeth Way, Cheltenham GL51 7SU

How to Book

The capacity for each session is 30. We will therefore book people on a first-come-first-served basis.

To book, please email the licensing section (licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk) or call us on 01242 775200 with:

- your full name;
- licence badge number (i.e. PHD000 or HCD000);
- an email address; and
- your preferred date and time.

We need an email address to send information and booking confirmation.

On the day

You will need to bring your driver's licence photo badge with you.

You will receive course material on the day that you can take away.

Cancellation

If you have booked on but have to cancel your booking, you must do so in writing by sending us an email no later than 72 hours in advance.

There is a cost attached to the training and the council will consider charging drivers that persistently cancel their booking without valid reasons.

Reminder: Safeguarding training

In January this year, 60 Cheltenham licensed drivers received safeguarding training. The training was delivered jointly by Gloucestershire Constabulary and the Gloucestershire Children's Safeguarding Board.

The sessions in February are now fully booked as is the April session. There are still spaces left for the 4th May and 8th June sessions.

The Council has made it a mandatory requirement for **ALL** Cheltenham licensed drivers to do the training. At present the training is provided free of charge and the Council would therefore like to remind those drivers who have not yet signed up to do so.



PHVs parking on Taxi ranks



All off street parking enforcement in Cheltenham is the responsibility of Gloucestershire County Council.

Cheltenham Borough Council has no formal powers to enforce any on-street parking contraventions.

Although Cheltenham council cannot formally take action regarding parking contraventions, as licensing authority it does have powers to deal with private hire vehicles that park on designated taxi ranks.

It is irrelevant for what purpose private hire drivers park on a taxi rank because the law expressly prohibits private hire vehicles from parking on taxi ranks.

The council will take appropriate action where there is evidence of private hire vehicles parking on taxi ranks.

Report it to licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk.

More funding for NVQs

Last year the Government funding for the Road Passenger Vehicle Driving (Taxi and Private Hire) NVQ was withdrawn.

However, the council has recently been notified that further funding has now been made available to fund the NVQ Certificate in Road Passenger Vehicle Driving (Taxi and Private Hire) at QCF level 2.

Whilst it is not longer a requirement for drivers to complete the NVQ, those drivers that still would like to get the NVQ qualification can now apply to do so completely free of charge.

Contact Betaris Training (www.betaristraining.com)

Road Passenger Vehicle Driving (Taxi and Private Hire)

The NVQ Certificate in Road Passenger Vehicle Driving (Taxi and Private Hire) at QCF level 2 enables taxi and private hire drivers to demonstrate evidence of technical competency and underpinning knowledge in relation to their work activities.

Useful contacts

Testing station: 01242 264184

Parking enforcement: 01452 521284

DBS: 03000 200 190

Street works/road closures:
08000 514514

Licensing: 01242 775200

Child car seats: Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles

Do you know the rules on children wearing seatbelts in your licensed vehicle?

The Government's advice is:

If the driver doesn't provide the correct child car seat, children can travel without one - but only if they travel on a rear seat:

- and wear an adult seat belt if they're 3 or older
- without a seat belt if they're under 3

Read more about "Child car seats: the law" on the Government's website at <https://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules/using-a-child-car-seat-or-boosters-seat>.

