

Rod Brown  
Head of Housing & Environmental  
Services



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Date 12 February 2016

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Dear Sir/Madam

## **HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE TARIFF/CREDIT CARD ACCEPTANCE IN TAXIS**

As you may be aware Transport for London (TfL) has recently announced that from October 2016 all TfL licensed Hackney Carriages will have to accept credit/debit card payments. To offset the cost of purchasing a card payment system, and payment processing charges, there will be a 20 pence surcharge added to all fares.

At this stage, I do not intend to recommend (to Council) a mandatory card payment facility in Epsom & Ewell Borough Council licensed Hackney Carriages, however there are a number of factors that need to be taken into account, hence, this letter to you as proprietors

I would be grateful to hear your views on this matter. If you consider that the Authority should follow in line with the TfL and insist on card payments, then the new London Taxi Tariff would be adopted in its entirety. If however you consider that this is not appropriate, then there would be a slight disparity in the tariffs, in that TfL licensed Hackney Carriages will charge 20 pence extra on each fare, but this is perhaps something that a customer may absorb without major concern.

If the Authority is not to insist on card payments, then it would not be justifiable to allow a 20 pence surcharge to be added to all fares.

If you have already installed a card payment system, then this of course was a business decision you made, and the surcharge is not something that should be imposed in retrospect.

However, the current Epsom & Ewell Taxi Fares allows for a surcharge of £1 or 10% of the fare to be added to card payments, whereas TfL licensed Hackney Carriages will not be able to charge more than the metered rate.

I would be grateful to hear any comment you have on the above, ideally via email to me at [rjackson@epsom-ewell.gov.uk](mailto:rjackson@epsom-ewell.gov.uk), by no later than **Friday 26 February 2016**.

Yours faithfully

*(Signature Redacted)*

Rachel Jackson  
Licensing, Grants and HIA Manager