**Taxi Types**

In England there are two types of vehicles that the public generally refer to as taxis

**Hackney Carriages**

In larger towns and cities including Stockport these are often the traditional style “London Taxis” or equivalent wheelchair accessible vehicles, they have the “Taxi” roof sign and may also be liveried with the word “Taxi” down the sides of the vehicle. The taxis/ hackney carriage vehicles can be seen parked on taxi ranks, usually in the vicinity of train stations, and popular town centre venues. The taxis can also be hailed by the customers on the street. All these taxis are fitted with a traditional style taxi meter, which the customer can see when inside the vehicle.

All the taxis charge the same fare, the taxi fares are set by the Council. There are three different tariffs/ daytime/ night-time and Xmas. Each of the 3 tariffs include a flag fall rate i.e. a standard charge for the first few yards and then a price per yardage and waiting time (this is why if you are in a taxi in a traffic jam you will still see the taxi meter click to the next incremental charge). Inside each taxi is a council issued tariff sheet which sets out the fare structure. There is an exception to the above fare structure and that applies to long distance journeys, so if a journey is to start or finish 4 miles or more outside of the Stockport boundary the driver can, prior to the start of the journey negotiate a fare with the customer, this is in recognition of the taxi likely having to return to Stockport without a customer fare, as the taxi cannot pick up a customer outside of the Stockport area unless it is a prebooked journey.

**Private Hire**

These vehicles are also often referred to as “taxis” by the public, but they operate differently than hackney carriages/ taxis. A private hire vehicle has to be booked via a private hire operator, examples of Stockport private hire companies include, Lynx, Metro and Uber,

The private hire vehicles tend to be saloon cars but can also been MPV type vehicles that can accommodate up to 8 passengers, very few are wheelchair accessible. They cannot look like a hackney carriage and cannot have a taxi roof sign

Private hire vehicles cannot use taxi ranks nor can they pick up customers without a pre booking

The cost of a private hire journey is set by each of the private hire operators own tables of fares, the council cannot be involved in the private hire fare setting process. A private hire vehicle may / may not have a taxi meter fitted