

Public Agenda Item: **Yes**

Title: **Hackney Carriage Tariff Increase**

Wards Affected: **All**

To: **Licensing Committee** On: **13 January 2022**

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1. What we are trying to achieve

- 1.1 This report concerns a request from the newly formed Torbay United Licensed Drivers Association (TULDA) to increase the applicable fare tariff in respect of all Hackney Carriages in Torbay.

2. Recommendation(s) for decision

- 2.1 That the appropriate Public Notices are placed to advertise the requested increase in the Hackney Carriage Fare Scale, as set out in the letter from the Torbay United Licensed Drivers Association (TULDA), See Appendix 1, and reproduced in Appendix 3.
- 2.2 That any responses to the Public Notice be considered by the Licensing Sub-Committee.
- 2.3 In the event that no objections are received, the new tariff will take effect from the 15th February 2022.

3. Key points and reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 Under the terms of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, a Local Licensing Authority may determine the maximum level of charges to be levied by all Hackney Carriages operating under its control.
- 3.2 A letter has been received on the 16th November 2021 from the Torbay United Licensed Drivers Association (TULDA) requesting that an increase be considered. Although TULDA represents many in the Hackney Carriage trade, a significant number are not members of the Association, and many will be members of Torbay Licensed Taxi Association.
- 3.3 It will be necessary to advertise the proposals by way of Public Notice for 14 days and in the event that objections are received, these responses must be considered by the Licensing Sub-Committee before any increase can take effect. If no objections are received, the new fares tariff will commence from the 15th February 2022.

For more detailed information on this proposal please refer to the Supporting Information.

**Steve Cox
Environmental Health Manager (Commercial)**

Annex 1 - Supporting information

A1. Introduction and history

A1.1 Under the terms of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, a Local Licensing Authority may determine the maximum level of charges to be levied by all Hackney Carriages operating under its control. Fares have been so determined for many years, with regular reviews.

A1.2 A letter has been received on the 16th November 2021 from the Torbay United Licensed Drivers Association (TULDA) requesting that an increase be considered in the current year. Although TULDA represents many in the Hackney Carriage trade, a significant number are not members of the Association, and many will be members of Torbay Licensed Taxi Association.

A 1.3 The proposed request has two options. This report covers Option 2, as this is the preferred request. This is that Tariff 1 journeys will still be charged at £3.00, though the distance this applies to is reduced from the first 470 yards (430 metres) or part thereof to the first 450 yards (411 metres) or part thereof. That each subsequent 130 yards (119 metres) is still charged at 15p, though the distance is reduced from 135 yards (123 metres). Tariff 1 is applicable for all hiring's made between 7 am and 11 pm on any day except Sundays and Bank Holidays.

A1.4 Tariff 2 journeys to be charged at £3.60, an increase of 30p but also as in Tariff 1, the proposed charges apply to a shorter distance. The distance this applies to is reduced from the first 470 yards (430 metres) or part thereof, to the first 450 yards (411 metres) or part thereof. That each subsequent 130 yards (119 metres) is still charged at 20p, though the distance is reduced from 135 yards (123 metres). Tariff 2 relates to journeys at all other times, including night times, Sundays, Bank Holidays, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

A1.5 The increase in Tariff 2 may help with the difficulties being experienced in recruiting enough drivers to work the night time economy shifts.

A1.6 The last increase in fares was agreed on the 16th May 2016 and came in to force on 1st July 2016. Details of the current charges are shown in Appendix 2 and the new proposed charges in Appendix 3.

A1.7 It will be necessary to advertise the proposals by way of Public Notice for 14 days and in the event that objections are received, these responses must be considered by the Licensing Sub-Committee before any increase can take effect. If no objections are received, the new fares tariff will commence from 15th February 2022.

A1.8 There is no right of appeal to the decision.

A2. Risk assessment of preferred option

A2.1 Outline of significant key risks

There are no significant risks.

A3. Options

A3.1 The other options are to refuse the proposed fare increase or to ask the Torbay United Licensed Drivers Association (TULDA) for additional information, to assist in making a determination.

A4. Summary of resource implications

A4.1 There are no resource implications for the Council

A5. What impact will there be on equalities, environmental sustainability and crime and disorder?

A5.1 There are no equalities, environmental sustainability or crime and disorder issues.

A6. Consultation and Customer Focus

A6.1 There has been no public consultation, to date, but one is required as part of the procedures before the fare increase can come into effect.

A7. Are there any implications for other Business Units?

A7.1 There are no significant implications for other business units.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Copy of the Tariff increase request letter received on the 16th November 2021 from Torbay United Licensed Drivers Association (TULDA)

Appendix 2 Summary of Current Charges from 1st Jul 2016

Appendix 3 Summary of Proposed Charges

Documents available in members' rooms

None

Background Papers:

The following documents/files were used to compile this report:

None