

Briefing Report  
No:

Public Agenda Item: **Yes**

Title: **Hackney Carriage Tariff Increase**

Wards  
Affected: **All**

To: **Licensing Committee** On: **17 February 2022**

Contact  
Officer: **Steve Cox**

☎ Telephone: **01803 208025**

✉ E.mail: **Steve.cox@torbay.gov.uk**

## **1. What we are trying to achieve**

- 1.1 This report concerns a request to increase the Hackney Carriage fare tariff in Torbay. We have received two requests, one from the newly formed Torbay United Licensed Drivers Association and the second from the existing Torbay Licensed Taxi Association.

## **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 Licensed Taxi Association (TLTA), See Appendix 3, and reproduced in Appendix 5.
- 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 22<sup>nd</sup> March 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 was received from the Torbay United Licensed Drivers Association (TULDA) requesting that an increase be considered. TULDA currently represents 43 Licensed drivers, 21 of which are from the Hackney Carriage trade.
- 3.3 An additional request was received from the TLTA requesting that an increase also be considered. TLTA currently represents 62 Licensed drivers, all of whom are from the Hackney Carriage trade.
- 3.4 The two requested Hackney Carriage fare increases differed and both TULDA and

TLTA were asked if a compromise could be made. A compromise could not be made and the final request from TULDA can be found at **Appendix 1** and the final request from TLTA can be found at **Appendix 2 & 3**.

- 3.5 As no compromise could be found between the two Associations, the Licensing Authority has determined that the request from the Association with the largest Hackney Carriage membership (TLTA) be recommended as they represent 62 Licensed drivers and vehicle owners.
- 3.6 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 22<sup>nd</sup> March 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 was received from the Torbay United Licensed Drivers Association (TULDA) requesting that an increase be considered. TULDA currently represents 43 Licensed drivers, 21 of which are from the Hackney Carriage trade.
- A1.3 An additional request was received from the Torbay Licensed Taxi Association (TLTA) requesting that an increase be considered. TLTA currently represents 62 Licensed drivers, all of whom are from the Hackney Carriage trade.
- A1.4 The two requested Hackney Carriage fare increases differed and both TULDA and TLTA were asked if a compromise could be made. A compromise could not be made and the final request from TULDA can be found at **Appendix 1** and the final request from TLTA can be found at **Appendix 2 & 3**.
- A1.5 As no compromise could be found between the two Associations, the Licensing Authority has determined that the request from the Association with the largest Hackney Carriage membership (TLTA) be recommended as they represent 62 Licensed drivers and vehicle owners.
- A 1.6 TULDA's proposed request found at **Appendix 1** has three options, however they declared they preferred option 3. This is, Tariff 1 journeys will be charged at a £3.50 pull off, an increase of 20p, however, 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..
- A1.7 TULDA's proposed Tariff 2 journeys to be charged at £4.00 pull off, an increase of 40p 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.
- A1.8 The TLTA request found at **Appendix 2 & 3 and reproduced at Appendix 5** which is recommended, is as follows. Tariff 1 journeys will be charged at £3.60 pull off, an increase of 30p, however the distance from the original tariff remains the same for the first 470 yards (430 metres). Then, each subsequent 135 yards (119 metres) be charged at 17p, an increase of 2p, but the distance has remained the same from the original tariff. Tariff 1 is applicable for all hiring's made between 7 am and 11 pm on any day except Sundays and Bank Holidays.

A1.9 TLTA's recommended Tariff 2 journeys will be charged at £4.00 pull off, an increase of 40p, but also as in Tariff 1, the distance remains the same as the original tariff. The distance this applies to is for the first 470 yards (430 metres) or part thereof. Then, each subsequent 135 yards (123 metres) be charged at 22p, an increase of 2p, but the distance has remained the same from the original tariff. Tariff 2 relates to journeys at all other times, including night times, Sundays, Bank Holidays, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

A1.10 TLTA are also requesting that the Tariff 2 wording be amended to be able to charge Tariff 2 between the hours of 7pm on Christmas Eve until 7am on Boxing Day, then again from 7pm on New Years Eve until 7am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January. At present Tariff 2 can only be charged on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve from 7pm until 11pm.

A1.11 TLTA are also requesting an additional extra of a £1.00 surcharge on each hiring between the hours of 7pm on Christmas Eve until 7am on Boxing Day, then again from 7pm on New Years Eve until 7am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

A1.12 The price increase on Tariff 2 may help with the difficulties being experienced in recruiting enough drivers to work the night time economy shifts.

A1.13 Torbay Council has increased Hackney Carriage fares following requests from the TLTA in 2011, 2013, 2016, with the last increase being set on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019. Fuel prices at the time of fares being considered and set through Licensing Committee are as follows:

01/07/2011	Unleaded per Litre 133.9p	Diesel per litre 137.9p
15/07/2013	Unleaded per Litre 134.9p	Diesel per litre 139.9p
01/07/2016	Unleaded per Litre 111.9p	Diesel per litre 112.9p
01/10/2019	Unleaded per Litre 126.9p	Diesel per litre 131.9p
2022(current)	Unleaded per Litre 145.9p	Diesel per litre 149.9p

*(Information taken from Gov.uk National Statistics weekly road fuel prices)*

Details of the current Hackney Carriage fares and charges are shown in **Appendix 6** and the new proposed charges in **Appendix 5**.

A1.14 Torbay is currently ranked 59<sup>th</sup> out of 358 in the National rankings based on a Tariff 1, 2-mile Hackney Carriage journey, priced at £6.75. The increase would see this rise to £7.15. 15 of the top 100 Local Authorities have increased Hackney Carriage fares since 2021. Other Neighbouring Local Authorities 2-mile Tariff 1 fares are as follows:

National position	Local Authority	2-mile Tariff 1 price	Last increase
46	East Devon	£6.80	2020
59	Torbay	£6.75	2019
74	Exeter	£6.60	2014
81	Plymouth	£6.60	2022
87	Teignbridge	£6.60	2020

A1.15 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 22<sup>nd</sup> March 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 To accept the recommendation for a Hackney Carriage fare increase as submitted by Torbay Licensed Taxi Association (TLTA).

A3.2 To refuse the recommendation for a Hackney Carriage fare increase from TLTA and accept the proposal of Option 3 as submitted by the Torbay United Licensed Drivers Association (TULDA).

A3.3 To refuse both the recommended Hackney Carriage fare increase from TLTA and the proposal from TULDA and continue with the existing charges.

## **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** Hackney Carriage Tariff increase request letter from Torbay United Licensed Drivers Association (TULDA)

**Appendix 2** Hackney Carriage Tariff increase request letter from Torbay Licensed Taxi Association (TLTA)

**Appendix 3** Hackney Carriage Tariff charges proposed by Torbay Licensed Taxi Association (TLTA)

**Appendix 4** National Hackney Carriage fares for 2-mile journey

**Appendix 5** Proposed New Hackney Carriage fares and charges

**Appendix 6** Existing Hackney Carriage fares and charges

**Documents available in members' rooms**

None

**Background Papers:**

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

None