

Briefing Report
No:

Public Agenda Item: **Yes**

Title: **Hackney Carriage Tariff Increase**

Wards
Affected: **All**

To: **Licensing Committee** On: **8th August 2019**

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1. What we are trying to achieve

- 1.1 This report follows a request from the Torbay Licensed Taxi Association to increase the maximum 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 maximum Hackney Carriage Fare Scale, as shown in Appendix 1.
- 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 1st October 2019.

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 request has been received from the Torbay Licensed Taxi Association for an increase in the maximum tariff as laid out in **Appendix 1**. Although the Torbay Licensed Taxi Association is a representative of the Hackney Carriage trade in Torbay, albeit not all those licensed are members of the Association, although any increase would apply to all licensed Hackney Carriage vehicles.
- 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 1st October 2019.

For more detailed information on this proposal please refer to Appendix A.

Steve Cox
Environmental Health Manager (Commercial)

Annex A – Supporting information to Report

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 request has been received from the Torbay Licensed Taxi Association for an increase in the maximum tariff as laid out in **Appendix 1**. Although the Torbay Licensed Taxi Association is a representative of the Hackney Carriage trade in Torbay, albeit not all those licensed are members of the Association, although any increase would apply to all licensed Hackney Carriage vehicles.

A 1.3 The proposed request is that:

Tariff 1 journeys be charged at £3.30 for the first 470 yards (430 metres) or part thereof. This is an increase in the initial charge of 30p over the current tariff. Tariff 1 is applicable for all hiring's made between 7 am and 11 pm on any day except Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Tariff 2 journeys to be charged at £3.60 for the first 470 yards (430 metres) or part thereof. This is an increase in the initial charge of 30p over the current tariff. Tariff 2 relates to journeys at all other times, including night times, Sundays, Bank Holidays, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

A1.4 The last increase in fares was three years ago and came in to force on 1st July 2016. Details of the current charges are shown in **Appendix 2**.

A1.5 By way of national benchmarking Private Hire and Taxi Monthly magazine (PHTM) advertises the current tariff of all 362 Licensing Authorities. In a table of comparison over a two mile journey, the most expensive tariff is London Heathrow at £10.60 and the cheapest Newcastle-Under-Lime at £4.30.

Torbay is currently 94th on the list and 4th out of all Devon Authorities. The current two mile tariff for Torbay is £6.39, which means that the increase will take this to £6.69 (position 51 on the comparison chart).

28 Authorities have increased tariffs in 2019, a further 82 increased their tariffs in 2018 and 53 in 2017.

A1.6 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 1st October 2019.

A1.7 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 Licensed Taxi Association 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 in to 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 from Torbay Licensed Taxi Association

Appendix 2 Summary of Current Charges from 1st Jul 2016

Documents available in members' rooms

None

Background Papers:

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

PHTM magazine (July 2019 edition) comparison chart

