



Public Agenda Item: **Yes**

Title: **Hackney Carriage Tariff Increase**

Wards Affected: **All**

To: **Licensing sub-Committee** On: **18 August 2011**

Key Decision: **No**

Change to Budget: **No** Change to Policy Framework: **No**

Contact Officer: **Steve Cox**

☎ Telephone: **01803 208034**

✉ E.mail: **Steve.cox@torbay.gov.uk**

1. What we are trying to achieve

- 1.1 This report concerns a request from the Torbay Licensed Taxi Association to increase the applicable fare tariff in respect of all Hackney Carriages in Torbay.

2. Recommendation(s) for decision

- 2.1 There is no recommendation however the options are either to grant or reject the increase.

3. Key points for consideration

- 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 13th April 2011 from the Torbay Licensed Taxi Association requesting that a 6% increase to be considered in the current year. Although the Torbay Licensed Taxi Association represents many in the Hackney Carriage trade, a significant number are not members of the Association.
- 3.3 Licensing Committee agreed on 2nd June 2011 that the proposals be advertised by way of Public Notice, allowing 14 days for any objections. If, as in this event, objections are received, these responses must be considered by the Licensing Sub-Committee before any increase can take effect.
- 3.4 During the consultation period, five representations have been received. Of these five, one is for the proposed increase and four are opposed to it. These are found in Appendix 4.

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

**Frances Hughes
Executive Head Community Safety**

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 letter was received on the 13th April 2011 from the Torbay Licensed Taxi Association requesting that a 6% increase to be considered in the current year. This is set out in correspondence attached as Appendix 1. Although the Torbay Licensed Taxi Association represents many in the Hackney Carriage trade, a significant number are not members of the Association.
- A1.3 The proposed request is that, Tariff 1 journeys be charged at £2.50 for the first 470 yards (430 metres) or part thereof, then 15p for each subsequent 141 yards (129 metres), or part thereof. This a reduction from 500 yards (457 metres) to 470 yards (430 metres) and a reduction of 150 yards (137 metres) to 141 yards (129 metres) respectively. 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 £3.00 for the first 470 yards (430 metres) or part thereof, which remains the same, then 20p for each subsequent 141 yards (129 metres), or part thereof. This a reduction from 500 yards (457 metres) to 470 yards (430 metres) and a reduction of 150 yards (137 metres) to 141 yards (129 metres) respectively. 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 last increase in fares was agreed in May 2008 and came in to force on 1st July 2008 and the details of these current charges are shown in Appendix 2.
- A1.6 On the 2nd June 2011 a report was taken to Licensing Committee to agree to advertise the proposals by way of Public Notice. This allowed 14 days so that any objections can be received. If no objections were received then the rise would have commence from 1st July 2011. A copy of the public notice is shown in Appendix 3.
- A1.7 During the consultation period, five representations have been received. Of these five, one is for the proposed increase and four are opposed to it. See Appendix 4.
- A1.8 The options are to either grant the tariff increase or to refuse it.
- A1.9 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 options are:

- (i) to refuse the fare increase, or
- (ii) to grant the fare increase.

A4. Summary of resource implications

A4.1 There are no significant 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 a public notice placed in the local paper in accordance with the legal requirements.

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 a letter from Torbay Licensed Taxi Association

Appendix 2 Summary of Current Charges from 1st July 2008

Appendix 3 Copy of the Public Notice

Appendix 4 Copy of the Representations

Documents available in members' rooms

None

Background Papers:

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

None