



Public Agenda Item: **Yes**

Title: **Hackney Carriage Tariff Increase**

Wards Affected: **All**

To: **Licensing Committee** On: **2 June 2011**

Key Decision: **No**

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

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### **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 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. This is 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 then the new tariff will take effect from the 1 July 2011.

### **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 13 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 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 then the new fares tariff will commence from 1 July 2011.

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

**Frances Hughes  
Executive Head of 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 has been received on the 13 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 1 July 2008 and the details of these current charges are shown in Appendix 2.
- 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 then the new fares tariff will commence from 1 July 2011.
- 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 fare increase or to ask the Torbay Licensed Taxi Association for additional information, to assist in making a decision.

### **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 a letter from Torbay Licensed Taxi Association

**Appendix 2** Summary of Current Charges from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008

**Documents available in members' rooms**

None

**Background Papers:**

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

None