

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Licensing Committee – 6 October 2010

Licensing Act 2003 – Request for a Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff Increase

Report of the Licensing Manager

(This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Ken Hayward)

1. Executive Summary

Members are asked to consider a request from Taunton Deane Taxi Association for an increase in the current Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff set by Taunton Deane Borough Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 permits District Councils to set the fares tariff for Hackney Carriages licensed in the District.
- 2.2 A request has been received from the Taunton Deane Taxi Association to increase the current Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff. A copy of their explanatory letter is attached at Appendix A. Their proposed tariff is attached at Appendix B.

3. Report

- 3.1 The Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff was last increased in 2008. A copy of the current tariff is attached at Appendix B.
- 3.2 The Taxi Association feel that that rising costs of fuel, increases in the numbers of Taxi's licensed by the Council and the delays caused by traffic problems in Taunton necessitate an increase in the fare tariff.
- 3.3 Following receipt of the request a consultation was undertaken with all Taunton Deane licensed drivers and operators. Three options were given 1) Increase the fares as requested by the Association, 2) Increase the fares by some other amount or 3) Do not increase the fares at this time. 21 responses were received and are summarised in table form at Appendix C.

- 3.4** From figures provided by the National Private Hire Association in August this year the Tariff within Taunton Deane is 9th highest of the 34 Local Authorities in the South West and is shown to be above the South West's average fare.
- 3.5** From an examination of the published AA Fuel Price Reports from July 2008 to August 2010, attached in chart form at Appendix D, it can be seen that although fuel prices have fluctuated they have mainly stayed and still remain below 2008's figures. In July 2008 the rate of inflation was 4.4% (source BBC News Channel) at the time of writing the current rate of inflation is 3.1% (source Bank of England).
- 3.5** It is the opinion of the Licensing Manager that any increase right now may appear unjustified to the travelling public especially in the current economic climate.
- 3.6** The Licensing Manager is also of the opinion that any increase has the potential to seriously damage the use of local taxis, which currently represent good value for money, as a viable public service and could encourage people to use their own transport increasing congestion and pollution within the Council area.

4. Finance Comments

None

5. Legal Comments

The legal implications are set out within the report.

6. Links to Corporate Aims

For the reasons set out within the report above maintaining the current Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff would support two of the core objectives of the Council Tackling Deprivation and Sustainable Community Development and Climate Change.

7. Environmental and Community Safety Implications

Set out within the report

8. Equalities Impact

Not required

9. Risk Management

N/A

10. Partnership Implications (if any)

None

11. Recommendations

That Members refuse the request of the Taunton Deane Taxi Association to increase the Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff.

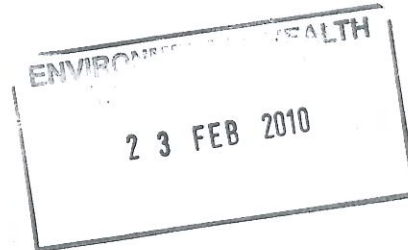
Contact: Ian Carter
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TAUNTON DEANE TAXI ASSOCIATION

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21 February 2010

Paul Dare
Licencing Officer
Taunton Deane Borough Council
The Deane House
Taunton




Dear Paul

During a recent meeting of the association, it was decided by majority vote that we should ask the Council to consider a fare increase. It would be prudent at this time to inform you that the "Taunton Deane Taxi Owners Association" has ceased to be and have amalgamated with our association. I trust you will find this makes negotiations far easier dealing with one voice for the trade, as our membership now accounts for in excess of 75% of the current plates issued.

Due to economic conditions we voted not to ask for a fare increase last year. This decision was partly based on national trends. With recent fuel increase and more new plates being issued almost daily we must act now to keep up with inflation. "The Office of National Statistics" show current inflation at 3.7%. This is of course an overall figure and doesn't consider fuel increases alone, of over 10% just in recent months. This is our major outgoing after vehicle purchase costs.

In line with the above we wish to ask for the changes to the tariff shown on the attached. We do not wish to alter the flag drop from £2.40 but a small drop in yardage on this and the subsequent yardage will give an increase on the meter, from £6.00 to £6.20 on the two mile fare, a 3.3% increase. With the ongoing traffic problems in the town time taken to cover any journey is increasing. We have not had any change in waiting time within the last two fare increases but now need to cover the costs as time equals money. We are therefore asking for an increase of 7.15%, above inflation but required due to traffic conditions. There is also one change to wording required to clarify rates for hiring's for in excess of four passengers.

We look forward to your early response.



Martin Jones (Spokesman)

Taunton Deane Borough Council
Maximum Permitted Taxi Fares – Valid from 15th July 2008

Standard Fare if the distance does not exceed 520 yards£2.40

If the distance does exceed 520 yards:

For the first 520 yards£2.40

For each completed 170 yards or part thereof20p

Waiting Time for each completed period of 45 seconds20p

Extra Charges

For hirings commencing between 10pm and 7am.....+ 50% of the Standard Fare

For Saturday & Sunday+ 50% of the Standard Fare

For all Public and Bank Holidays.....+ 100% of the Standard Fare

In Excess of 4 Passengers at any point during the hire+ 50% of the Standard Fare

In Excess of 4 Passengers between 10 pm and 7am,

Sundays and Bank holidays.....+ 100% of The Standard Fare

Soiling Charge.....£100.00

**If you have any queries or comments relating to this taxi, please contact the
Licensing Unit on 01823 356343 quoting the vehicle's registration or plate number**

All charges are inclusive of V.A.T. (if applicable)

Taunton Deane Taxi Association – Requested Increase (underlined)

Taunton Deane Borough Council
Maximum Permitted Taxi Fares – Valid from 15th July 2008

Standard Fare if the distance does not exceed 500 yards£2.40

If the distance does exceed 500 yards:

For the first 500 yards£2.40

For each completed 160 yards or part thereof20p

Waiting Time for each completed period of 42 seconds20p

Extra Charges

For hirings commencing between 10pm and 7am.....+ 50% of the Standard Fare

For Saturday & Sunday+ 50% of the Standard Fare

For all Public and Bank Holidays.....+ 100% of the Standard Fare

In Excess of 4 Passengers at any point during the hire+ 50% of the Standard Fare

In Excess of 4 Passengers between 10 pm and 7am,

Sundays and Bank holidays.....+ 100% of The Standard Fare

Soiling Charge.....£100.00

**If you have any queries or comments relating to this taxi, please contact the
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Consultation One - Fares

Option 1	Increase the fares as requested by the TDTA		
		Total	9
Option 2	Increase the fares by some other amount.		
		Total	4
Option 3	Do not increase the fares at this time.		
		Total	6
Alternative Suggestions	Reduce current fares		
		Total	2

Details of alternative suggestions

Reduce yardage from 170 to 160 yards

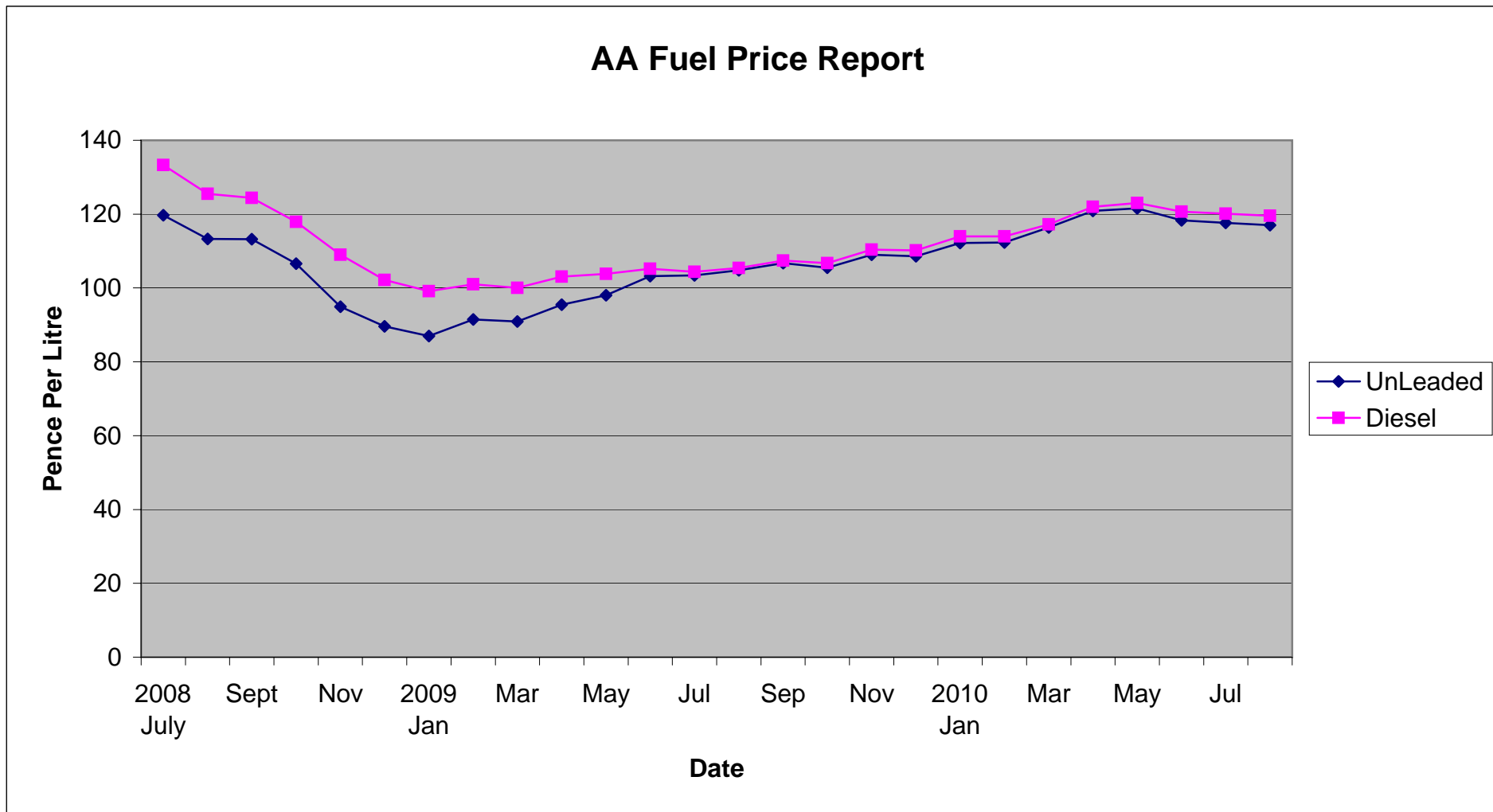
Increase flag to £2.80 and all else as per TDTA proposal.

Increase flag to £2.80 and all else as per TDTA proposal.

No Suggested figures

Abolish double time fares for Bank Holidays with the exception of Christmas & New Years Day

Abolish double time fares for Bank Holidays and reduce to time and a half. And Abolish time and a half for Saturdays and reduce to time.



	Unleaded	Diesel
Jul-08	119.7	133.3
Aug-10	117	119.6

Figures show the average prices in the South West.

