

APPENDIX - C

Responses Received - Taxi Fare Options (October 2022)

	Date	YES/NO	Proposal - 20% Fare Increase Responses received with Comments
1	21.09.22	YES	I am fully in favour of the proposal to raise all fares by 20 %. I found the last fare increase quite disappointing in practice & am of the opinion that it did not reflect the increase in all our overheads at all. Over 23 years the amount that I take from my business for a wage has fallen by 10 %.
2	21.09.22	YES	I would like to express my support for this proposed increase. The increased cost of living is having a big impact on drivers who are seeing a decrease in profits. The cost of fuel, parts and other costs have increased meaning that start up costs are often unrealistic and this is impacting on recruiting and retaining drivers. This then can be passed on to the public who may not get such a prompt and efficient service. I am aware that everyone is struggling with the increase in the cost of living but I hope that this proposed small increase will help to alleviate some of these issues to improve taxi services across East Devon.
3	21.09.22	YES	I believe the fares should increase by 20% due to are ever rising costs its becoming very difficult to make a living as a taxi and any help we can get would be much appreciated many thanks. Please can you review the 4 year rule as requested as this is also killing us for the price of second hand cars as Dorset Council and other councils are up to 8 years old as the vehicle still has the same checks
4	21.09.22	YES	I am totally in favour of a net 20% fare increase across the board. This review is well overdue, given the fuel price hikes over the past year. Plus given the fact that most taxi operators have been forced to calculate fixed fares which reflect the true costs of each journey, rather than relying on the three set meter tariffs. One would hope that once sanctioned, the price change would be affected immediately.
5	22.09.22	NO	I thought we only recently had an Increase in the Day and weekend Rates from £3.50 to £3.85 and £4 to £4.40. If there is to be an Increase I would suggest no more than 5%.Then Review again Next Spring 2023.
6	22.09.22	YES	I think 15-20% rise now and then small jumps every year. Previously tariffs stayed frozen for a few years then a large jump. I believe a 15-20% rise now is acceptable as we are all paying at least 20% more for fuel. This is my opinion on the matter.
7	23.09.22	YES	I am wholeheartedly for a fare increase, in actual fact, I think it is overdue, you have had enough evidence provided by other driver operators to understand our predicament and we are all aware of the crisis surrounding us so it is in my eyes and understanding necessary.
8	23.09.22	YES	Thank you for notifying me of proposed change to the current Taxi Tariff. I agree in the current economic climate there is a need for an increase. The other proposal I would like to have, is a minimum fare, maybe £10 or £12 on Christmas Day and New Year Day. Once the meter exceeds this, the meter price would be paid or create a different tariff. This would stop drivers refusing to take a short fare (yes, this does happen).

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9	30.09.22	YES	<p>This was my reply earlier in the year - I didn't receive a response: Firstly, I seem to recall that most of the Taxi Proprietors and Licensing Officers meetings started at 2.00pm - in term time this was inadequate for me as I did have and currently continue to have a school contract which I need to set off for not long after that time, and if it occurred in school holidays I was most likely to be taking holiday myself to spend time with my school-aged children. Perhaps you could arrange an alternative time (11.00?) for this meeting post Covid-19? The trade hasn't increased that much since the first lockdown tbh.</p> <p>Secondly, you refer to 'value for money for users' - does this mean that annual average salary figures, and minimum wage increases are ignored - effectively meaning we have to work more hours to try to keep up. Perhaps the future approach should require automatic increases in line with these things?</p> <p>But getting back to the options suggested - can you explain the arbitrary figure of 5.7%? I'd be up for increasing the minimum fares for Tariffs 1,2 3 to £4.00, £5.00 & £6.00 and adding 5 pence onto the rolling charges across all three - rest can stay the same.</p> <p>One last question - is each town given a weighting with regard to the outcome? Obviously Exmouth has more drivers than anywhere else, but that shouldn't mean they override the feelings of the other major taxi bases in East Devon.</p>
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Proposal sent to licensees:

Subject: Have your say - Taxi Fare Review (Autumn 2022)

The licensing team is contacting you as the holder of an East Devon hackney carriage licence about a proposal to increase taxi fares in East Devon. The decision to change the fares can only be made by the EDDC Licensing Committee, it is not a decision that can be taken by licensing officers. A forthcoming meeting of the Committee is due to happen to consider a further request for change and you are being contacted for your views.

The new proposal is to make a change by an increase being made to the previous fare table that was in place from year 2020 to April 2022. The increase requested would be against the last fare table for 20% across all daytime, evening/weekend and bank holiday tariffs.

If you would like to provide comments to have your say about this proposal, please respond before Friday, 7th October by emailing licensing@eastdevon.gov.uk or in writing to the Council offices. Responses received before the deadline will be put forward to the Licensing Committee and should be provided in a professional and appropriate way that is inline with the code of conduct for licence holders.