

QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR

Question submitted by: Councillor Terri Beer

To Cabinet Member: Cabinet Member for Governance, HR, IT & Community Safety

Question:

Given that we are facing a cost of living crisis and our taxi drivers are already struggling with higher fuel cost are you still going to force through your policy on changing taxi livery? How are you going to support this cost? And do you consider the cost of the fact finding undertaken by Cllr Riley as good value for money?

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

The Taxi Fares (Taxi Tariff) for Hackney Carriages are set by the Council and this has been reviewed by Members at the Taxi Licensing Committee on 1.9.22. As a result, the table of fares will be updated and come into effect from 19 September. This is the second time this year that the tariff has been increased to ensure it considers the cost of living crisis and supports Plymouth's taxi trade to make a viable living.

The Council have found some funding towards the livery and this will be communicated to all Hackney Carriage Vehicle owners shortly.

I am not aware of any fact-finding costs incurred by Councillor Riley. A 12-week consultation was undertaken to ensure that everyone could comment on the proposed changes.

The white and green design of the livery is bright and easily identifiable and it is hoped this will improve customer safety especially in the evening and night-time economy. A liveried fleet assists members of the public to identify a hackney carriage that can be flagged anywhere. Customers will be reassured that they have hired a proper cab and not someone posing as a cab driver. The Council's CCTV department have also advised that at night, a clear defined taxi colour such as the white and green proposed, will help with identification, and will support clearer CCTV images.

The livery will therefore enhance public safety and security as customers can be confident that the taxi is properly licensed and meets the necessary safety standards especially vulnerable clients transported at night.

Signed:

Dated: 15 September 2022