

APPENDIX 1

Who are You? Please use the space below to make any representation you wish the Council to consider before it decides if the current scale of charges will be altered or remain unchanged. If required, you can continue your representation on the next page. - Your Representation

- Taxi User** I feel the fares are overpriced due to the under-pricing of public transport in early mornings and late evenings for me to get to Peebles there are early buses from Galashiels to Peebles but not from Newtown to Gala meaning I need to pay £20 in the morning just to get to Galashiels, then the same the other way late at night. Also as no public transport on Xmas there is no thought for hospitality workers in the Borders region
- Taxi User** Happy with proposals- Regular wheelchair taxi user.
- Taxi User** My feeling is that the taxi fares are too high and discourage use. They are higher than the fares in Midlothian, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, even Northumberland. Even before the last increase, they were too high. I used to use taxis frequently when I lived in Aberdeen; here, I stopped using them except in emergencies, several years ago.
- Taxi User** I think taxi fares in the Scottish Borders are high enough as they are. I recently paid £12.80 for a 4 mile trip at night. Thank goodness I don't go out much. I also know of several pensioners and one who is losing her sight who rely on taxis getting them from home to the shops. I dread to think how much they are regularly paying.
- Taxi User** the Borders is an area with:
*Already low and Declining availability of public transport cross region
*stagnant incomes in an already low income area
*increasing poverty thanks to economic recession, austerity and universal credit
*vast land mass and rurality
Taxis are disproportionately used by the poor and disabled, particularly to access shopping and health facilities, even in the larger towns.
Don't put up the prices.
- Taxi User** Taxi charges in the Scottish Borders are far too high and to increase them further is a disgrace. Build a rank at Tweedbank station instead of forcing passengers to pay higher costs from Galashiels if heading in that direction. Allow Uber in to compete. £17 from Galashiels to Melrose is daylight robbery.

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Other

I think the taxis in Borders are very expensive by comparison to Uber and general cabs in Edinburgh. I live in St Boswell's and work in Edinburgh. If I want to go out for more than one drink after work and opt to leave my car in Tweedbank, it is very high to get home. An off peak return by train to Edinburgh is under £12 and the taxi for a 10 min ride from Tweedbank to St Boswell's is just under £20 in unsocial taxi hrs. That just doesn't make sense that the 10 min ride is more than the return to Edinburgh. I think bring Uber here or to encourage people to come to Borders more or use our restaurants etc. we need to be supportive of customers not just drivers. There is a lack of competition and I think that is unfair at the moment and doesn't bring the best for customers

Other

I believe the suggestion put forward is justified due to in part the increased cost of doing business. All businesses are feeling a bit of a pinch.

I think it is a number of years since prices increased by any amount. A standard of income for a living should be expected from any business. I for one approve.

Other

no comments provided

Taxi Driver/Operator

I think it should increase as this is the first increase in 5 years far too long

Taxi Driver/Operator

Bring your driver licence costs in line with Midlothian DC

Taxi Driver/Operator

It was agreed to dispense with the 5p from all fares, it served no purpose, given that 95% of drivers don't bother with it, we asked that the starting rates go from 2.25 to 2.50 and from 2.80 to 3.00 and that's all, when the original 25% was introduced, it was meant to be on the starting rates only, not the whole fare, but it got mixed up, some of the after 10 PM fares are ridiculous, but this could be cut back to 10%