

New barriers set to close off fare-dodging opportunities in Hull

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Fare-dodging is a hot topic at the moment, with many operators clamping down hard on dodgy passengers trying to get away without paying their way.

At Hull's Paragon station, plans have been submitted to install automatic ticket barriers, offering a first defence against anyone hoping to travel without the correct ticket.

Currently, there are no barriers in place between the main station waiting room, and the Starbucks unit, allowing people to walk onto the platforms with no blocks – you can even pick up a coffee on the way!

The four new barriers, if approved, will allow better control of access to the main platform areas. A design report for the proposed changes, submitted by AHA Building notes: "The submitted proposals reflect TransPennine Express' wish to enhance the customer experience when using their stations. The rationale behind installing automatic ticket gates is to increase the revenue protection measures for the operator, reducing the number of fare evaders, and controlling access to the platforms.

"The gates will provide an accurate footfall rate within the station, with current numbers not correct due to

not all passengers purchasing tickets. Each of the platforms is a terminus platform and so once the gatelines have been installed and the revenue protection measures have been implemented, all passengers entering or leaving the station will have to use the gates and will therefore require a ticket to do so.

“The gates will be staffed to provide assistance to any customers who may physically struggle to use the gates or possess valid tickets/passes that do not operate the gates. The gate array will include a mixture of wide and standard-width ticket gates

“The wide gate allows wheelchair users, those with prams, cycles, and those with heavy luggage to go through without being potentially trapped in the standard width gate.”

The design for the new entrance area has been futureproofed to allow for the current waiting room to be incorporated, which will restrict access to passengers without tickets. This is in a bid to prevent anti-social behaviour and damage to toilets, which is a frequent issue currently.

Ticket machines and passenger information screens will also add to the ease of use of the new-look entrance, however heritage features, such as the iron gates at the walkway to the platforms will be retained but in different positions to keep the character of the station.