

## **POLICY AND RESOURCES LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – 3 JUNE 2016**

### **CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 TAXI FARES REVIEW – INITIAL REPORT**

#### **1 Recommendations**

**The Licensing Sub-Committee is asked to:-**

- (a) approve the fare scale listed at Appendix 1 to this Report as a proposal for the purposes of consultation with the taxi trade;**
- (b) nominate Members of the Sub-Committee to meet with the taxi trade on a date in August 2016 to be agreed in consultation with the Chair for the purpose of agreeing a proposed fare scale which can then be the subject of public consultation in accordance with the requirements of the legislation governing fare reviews; and**
- (c) authorise officers to co-ordinate the process for the review of the fare scale.**

#### **2 Background / Discussion**

- 2.1 Under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, Aberdeenshire Council, as licensing authority, controls taxi fares (but not private hire car charges).
- 2.2 The licensing authority is required in terms of the 1982 Act to carry out a review of fares every 18 months. The fare scale currently in force became effective on 1 October 2015 and is shown in the appendix to this Report.
- 2.3 This fare scale has been developed over the years in consultation with the trade. One issue that the trade are currently known to have an issue with and which they are likely to raise in any discussions is the increase in the last few months in the drop off charge at Aberdeen Airport.
- 2.4 The procedures and proposed timetable for review of the taxi fares is as follows:
  - (a) The taxi trade will be consulted on the fare scale proposals. The Sub-Committee has traditionally appointed the Chair and two members of the Committee to meet with the taxi trade to discuss fares as an initial step in carrying out a review of fares. It is anticipated that such a meeting could be arranged sometime in August
  - (b) It will be necessary to publish a proposal for the trade to consider in advance. Letters will be issued to the trade before the end of June advising them of the proposal and the date, time and place of the consultation meeting.
  - (c) Officers have found that proposing that there be no increase in fares in the past has been the best way to get the taxi trade to come up with proposals that they can reach agreement on. It is therefore proposed

that this be repeated again in this review. It is stressed that this is a basis for consultation with the taxi trade only at this stage.

- (d) The consultation meeting with the taxi trade will then produce an agreed fare scale proposal.
  - (e) The proposed fare scale that is agreed at the meeting with the trade will be published in the Press and Journal Newspaper on a date to be confirmed but likely to be sometime in September 2016. Any person wishing to make representations in respect of the proposals must then do so in writing within one calendar month of the date of publication.
  - (f) On the same date as the notice appears in the press the taxi trade will be issued with a letter advising them of the agreed fare scale. The trade also has one calendar month in which to submit written representations.
  - (g) After the period for representations closes a report will be prepared for that Sub-Committee meeting of 2 December 2016, the purpose of which is to allow consideration of any representations made to make any amendments to the proposed fare scale as required and thereafter to fix the fare scale.
  - (h) Immediately after the fare scale is fixed on 2 December 2016, the taxi trade will receive a letter confirming the fare scale and advising them of their right to appeal to the Traffic Commissioners against the proposals. Any appeals must be made within 14 days of the date of the Licensing Sub-Committee (by 16 December 2016). At the end of the appeal time limit a second advert will appear in the Press and Journal advertising the revised fare scale.
  - (i) A final letter will be issued to the taxi trade and to the organisations known to update fare chips in taximeters. Copies of the revised fare scale for display within taxi vehicles will also be enclosed with the letter. The letter will also advise operators of the implementation date of the revised scale. Approximately three weeks will be allowed before the implementation date to allow all taximeters to be reconfigured to take account of the new fare scale. The implementation date is likely to be early in 2017.
- 2.11 The Council's Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer within Business Services have monitored this report.

### **3 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no area, policy, finance, staffing or sustainability implications directly arising from this report.
- 3.2 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed in this case because carrying out the recommendations will not have a differential impact on the protected characteristics of the applicant or any third parties.

**Ritchie Johnston**  
**Director of Business Services**

Report prepared by: Peter Robertson, Senior Solicitor, Legal and Governance

**TAXI FARE SCALE FROM 1 OCTOBER 2015**

	Standard	Late-Night <sub>1</sub>	Xmas/ New Year <sub>2</sub>
The <b>First 880 YARDS</b> or part thereof	<b>£2.60</b>	<b>£3.60</b>	<b>£3.90</b>
Each additional <b>1/11<sup>th</sup></b> part of a mile or thereof	<b>£0.20</b>	<b>£0.20</b>	<b>£0.30</b>
Waiting: 10 pence per	<b>10 seconds</b>	<b>10 Seconds</b>	<b>10 Seconds</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The late-night scale applies: Monday – Thursday from 2200 to 0600 and at weekends between 1800 on Fridays until 0600 on Mondays</li> <li>2. The Festive Season tariff applies to each hiring between 1800 Hrs 24 December until 0600 Hrs 27 December, and between 1800 Hrs 31 December until 0600 Hrs 3 January.</li> <li>3. In vehicles so licensed carrying more than four passengers, a surcharge of 50% of the above fares may be charged.</li> <li>4. If paying by debit/credit card this may attract a 10% service charge in addition to the fare shown</li> </ol>			
<p>Booking Fee - £0.50 (£1.50 if picking up or dropping off a pre-booked fare at the Airport) – to be shown on the meter</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOTE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Passengers are carried on the understanding that the Driver may charge a passenger creating and unacceptable mess in the Taxi a maximum of £50</b></p>			

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