

## **REPORT TO LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – 20 APRIL 2018**

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

#### **1 Recommendations**

**The Sub-Committee is recommended to:**

- 1.1 approve the fare scale listed at Appendix 1 to this report as a proposal for the purposes of consultation with the tax trade;**
- 1.2 nominate members of the Sub-Committee to meet with the taxi trade on a date to be agreed in consultation with the Chair for the purposes 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**
- 1.3 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 the Licensing Authority, controls taxi fares (but not private hire 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 February 2017.
  - 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 drop-off charges at Aberdeen Airport. Another issue that is likely to be raised is the prospect of introducing mandatory Group 2 DVLA medical certification for drivers.
  - 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 May.
    - (b) It will be necessary to publish a proposal for the trade to consider in advance. Letters will be issued to the trade by 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018 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 encourage the trade to come forward with proposals that they can reach agreement on. It is therefore proposed that a similar approach be taken to 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 then be published in the Press and Journal on a date later to be confirmed (1 week after the meeting with the taxi trade). 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 day that the notice appears in the press the taxi trade will be issued with a letter advising them of the agreed fare scale. The trade then also has one calendar month in which to submit written representations.
  - (g) After the period for representations closes a report will be prepared for the Sub-Committee meeting on 24 August 2018, 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 24 August 2018, 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 Sub-Committee meeting, i.e. by 7 September 2018. At the end of the appeal time a second advert will appear in the Press and Journal advertising the revised scale.
  - (i) A final letter will then 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. Approximately three weeks will be allowed before the implementation date to allow taximeters to be reconfigured to take account of the new fare scale. The implementation date is likely to be 1st October 2018.
- 2.5 The Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

### **3 Scheme of Governance**

- 3.1 The Sub-Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section C – Business Services: 1 – Committee Functions: 1.1(a) of the list of committee powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance which enables the Committee to decide on all policy issues and resource matters relating to the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 with implications across Area boundaries. The Committee determined that the licensing function should be delegated to the Licensing Sub-Committee.

## **4 Implications and Risk**

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the proposal does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 4.2 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: ACORP006 Reputation management – review of fares can lead to negative press for the Council. The review is a legislative requirement, and the proposals include full consultation with the trade and public. [Corporate Risk Register](#)

**Geraldine Fraser**  
**Acting Head of Legal and Governance**

Report prepared by Iain Meredith, Solicitor (Governance)  
Date 9 April 2018

**APPENDIX 1**  
**FARE SCALE FOR CONSULTATION**

**Fare Scale (From 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017)**

	Standard	10 pm to 6 am <sup>1.</sup>	Xmas/New Year <sup>2.</sup>
The <b>FIRST 880 YARDS</b> or part thereof	£2.60	£3.60	£3.90
Each additional <b>1/11<sup>th</sup></b> part of a mile or part thereof	£0.20	£0.20	£0.30
Waiting: 10 pence per	10 seconds	10 seconds	10 seconds

1. The late-night scale applies Mondays – Thursdays and also applies at weekends between 1800 on Fridays until 0600 on Mondays
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.
3. In vehicles so licensed carrying more than four passengers, a surcharge of 50% of the above fares may be charged.
4. If paying by debit/credit card this may attract a 10% service charge in addition to the fare shown

Booking Fee - £0.50 (£2.00 if picking up a pre-booked fare to and from the Airport) – to be shown on the meter

**NOTE**

**Passengers are carried on the understanding that the Driver may charge a passenger creating an unacceptable mess in the Taxi a maximum of £50**

