

**CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982
TAXI FARE SCALE REVIEW**

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1** In terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, Section 17, the Local Authority requires to fix maximum fares and other charges in connection with the hire of taxis operating in their area and to review the scales for taxi fares and other charges on a regular basis.
- 1.2** The Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee at their meeting on 20 January 2010 decided to keep the fares at the existing level with a further review to take place in January 2011. The last increase in the three tariffs was on 10th April 2008.
- 1.3** The latest review of taxi fares was advertised in all local newspapers asking for representations from all organisations and individuals in by 6th December 2010. Letters to this effect were also sent out to all Taxi Operators on 21st October 2010.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** The Committee are asked to:
- Fix the scales for taxi fares and other charges
 - Authorise the Head of Governance and Law to advertise the agreed tariff for 2011.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1** Before this consultation was undertaken, correspondence was received from the Dunoon Taxi Owners Association in July 2010, requesting that the review be set in motion due

to the forthcoming rise of 2.5% in VAT. Please refer to Appendix 1 for details including the Council's response.

- 3.2** As a result of the latest consultation only 5 written responses have been received and these are as follows:
- i. Mr Zan-Kreyer from Rothesay supports an increase however no specific proposals were submitted. Please refer to Appendix 2 for details.
 - ii. Mr MacIntyre, Chairman of Dunoon Taxi Owners Association also submitted a response recommending an increase which they advise is supported by the Campbeltown and Oban Operators. It is proposed by them that in respect of the initial charge for Tariff 1, 2 and 3 there is an increase of 10 pence and a drop in yardage of 120 yards. It is further proposed by them in respect of the subsequent charge for Tariff 1, 2 and 3 the charge remain the same but that there is a drop in yardage in respect of Tariff 1 of 24 yards, in Tariff 2 of 30 yards and in respect of Tariff 3 of 15 yards. There is no proposed increase in respect of waiting time or additional charges. A copy of the letter from Dunoon Taxi Owners Association with their proposals is attached as Appendix 3
 - iii. Mr David Gemmell of Clyde Taxis has also responded requesting the same increases as Dunoon Taxi Owners Association. A copy of the letter from Mr Gemmell is attached as Appendix 4.
 - iv. Maxine Fletcher of Helensburgh and Lomond Taxi Association emailed their proposals which they wish applicable for their zone only. The details of which are attached as Appendix 5. I would also draw the members attention to their request which does not propose any change on the existing yardage currently in place however they have requested additional charges be set whereby when unleaded fuel reaches £1.30 per litre, a 10p per hire surcharge applies. For every further 10p increase on fuel, a 10p per hire surcharge applies. They have also requested a variation with the tariff hours which are presently set at 10pm to 7am; they propose that these be set at 9pm to 7am. It should be noted that not all signatures to the proposal agree with the proposals.
 - v. Finally, Tony Morris and Gordon Morton from the Helensburgh area have responded requesting that there is no increase in the running mile or any other charges but that there is a 30p increase across all the tariffs on the flagfall A copy of their letter is attached as Appendix 6.

3.3 Enquiries were made with Highland Council and Angus Council regarding their existing taxi charges for the purpose of comparison. Highland Council provided information on their scales which came into force in November 2009. Angus Council has also provided information on their scales which came into force on 30th August 2010. A table showing the general effect of the tariffs of these two Council's together with Argyll and Bute's existing tariffs as well as the proposals from Dunoon Taxi Owners Association and Helensburgh and Lomond Taxi Association is attached as Appendix 6.

3.4 To emphasise the changes with inflation the Committee are advised that the All Items Retail Price Index for October 2008 was 4.2%, for October 2009 was 0.8% and for October 2010 was 4.5%. Fuels and lubricants where prices, overall, rose by 1.8% between September and October this year compared to a fall of 0.7% a year ago. This largely reflects a rise of 2.1 pence per litre in the price of petrol between September and October this year compared with a fall of 0.8 pence per litre a year ago. The rise in fuel prices this year includes the impact of the increase in road fuel duty, which took effect from 1st October 2010.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 Members are now required to review the matter of taxi fares. Members are reminded that fixing new fares or confirming the existing fares they are fixing a maximum fare that can be charged for the hire of a taxi and that taxi operators or drivers are free to charge any lesser amount up to and including the maximum fixed. In reviewing the matter of taxi fares members are invited to consider whether;

A)

They wish to increase the scale of maximum fares to a level such as that proposed by:- Mr Morris and Mr Morton, Dunoon Taxi Owners Association and/or Helensburgh and Lomond Taxi Association, having regard to:-

1. The lack of representation or response to the proposed review of taxi fare scales for or against from consultees, interested parties and members of the public.
2. The comparison of the general effect of Argyll and Bute's existing fares with those in place in Highland and Angus Council.
3. The increase in the retail price index.
4. The increase in the price of fuel.

OR

B)

They wish to reaffirm the current scale of maximum fares previously fixed by the Council having regard to:-

1. The lack of representation or response to the proposed review of taxi fare scales for or against from consultees, interested parties and members of the public.

Members should be aware that any person who operates a Taxi in an area for which scales have been fixed or in respect of which a review has been carried out will have the opportunity to lodge an appeal to the Scottish Traffic Commissioner within a 14 day period.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy - None
- 5.2 Financial - None
- 5.3 Legal – The Council require to raise taxi fares in terms of the Act
- 5.4 HR - None
- 5.5 Equalities - None
- 5.6 Risk - None

6.0 APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Letter from MacIntyre Taxi's dated 28.7.10
- Appendix 2 – Letter from Mr Zan Kreyser
- Appendix 3 – Letter from MacIntyre Taxi's dated 23.11.10
- Appendix 4 – Letter from Clyde Taxi
- Appendix 5 – Letter from Mr Morris & Mr Morton
- Appendix 6 – Proposals from M Fletcher & Co.
- Appendix 7 – Comparison Table

Executive Director of Customer Services
16th December 2010

For further information contact: Alison MacNab Ext: 4198