

CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982

TAXI FARE SCALE REVIEW

1. 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 19th January 2011 decided to increase the fare structure as follows:-

Tariff 1 from £2.50 to £2.70

Tariff 2 from £3.00 to £3.20

Tariff 3 from £3.50 to £3.70

that the charges in respect of soiling, waiting and telephone bookings remain as £100 (maximum), 30p per minute and 30p respectively;

that there be no change to the yardage distances which are currently based on an initial charge per 860yds and a subsequent charge of 20p for each additional 200 yards;

that a further review of the fare structure should be undertaken in 12 months time rather than 18 months as required in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

1.3 Letters to all taxi operators were issued on 1st November 2011 asking for representations from all organisations and individuals to be in by 28th November 2011.

1.4 As a result of this consultation 9 written responses were received which the committee considered at their meeting on 18th January 2012. The committee agreed the present fare structure should remain the same including the charges in respect of soiling, waiting and telephone bookings and the yardage distances. It was also agreed that further review of the fare structure should be undertaken in 18 months as required in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

1.5 In terms of Section 17 (4A) (c) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 an advert was placed in the local press during week ending 27th

January 2012 detailing the proposals that there would be no amendments to fares for taxis operating within the jurisdiction of Argyll and Bute. Any person wishing to lodge representations in respect of these proposals was invited to do so by 1st March 2012.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee are asked to:

- Consider the representations received following the publication of the proposal that the charges will remain the same.

3. DETAIL

3.1 No representations have been received from members of the public following the advert. The following 4 written responses have been received from taxi operators and these are as follows:-

- i Mr Robson of Tobermory, Isle of Mull has responded in writing that 18 months is too long to wait for a review and that the trade would welcome a shorter timescale. Mr Robson is again requesting that remote/island areas be allowed to operate on tariff 2 as their base rate. A copy of Mr Robson's letter dated 2nd February 2012 is attached as Appendix 1.
- ii Mr MacIntyre of Dunoon has responded in writing protesting about the decision to refuse an increase and the review period reverting back to 18 months. A copy of Mr MacIntyre's letter dated 21st February 2012 is attached as Appendix 2
- iii Mr Robertson of Oban has written to suggest that instead of increasing the base tariff the yardage should be decreased and a copy of his letter dated 28th February 2012 is attached as Appendix 3.
- iv Finally, Mr MacIntyre in his capacity as Chairman of Dunoon Taxi Owners and Drivers Association has also submitted a response objecting to no fare increase and the 18 month period for review. A copy of the Association's letter with 25 supporting signatures is attached as Appendix 4.

4. CONCLUSION

- ### **4.1** Members, if they are minded, can amend the proposals having considered the terms of the representations received from the taxi

operators.

In considering the representations on the matter of taxi fares members are invited to consider whether;

A)

They wish to decrease the yardage as suggested by Mr Robertson of Oban and Mr MacIntyre, Chairman of Dunoon Taxi Owners and Drivers Association, although no specific details have been provided on this occasion; or

Members may wish to re-consider their decision that a review be undertaken in 18 months which the parties consider too long a period; or

Members may wish to re-consider the proposal by Mr Robson that remote/rural areas operate on tariff 2 as there base rate.

When considering all of the above proposals members may wish to have regard to:-

1. That a total of 28 people within the taxi trade have indicated they disagree with the decision taken on 18th January 2012 that no increase will take place and that a review will be undertaken in 18 months. There are 156 taxi operators within the council's area.
2. No representations were received from members of the public.

If members wish to amend the proposals following representations from taxi operators it is recommended that these be re-advertised and a further report be made to PPSL on representations received.

B)

They wish to confirm their proposal as agreed on 18th January 2012 that no fare increase will take place and that a review will be undertaken in 18 months.

Members should be aware that any person or any persons or organisations appearing to the Traffic Commissioner to be representative of taxi operators in the area 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 still have the opportunity to lodge an appeal to the Scottish Traffic Commissioner within a 14 day period.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Policy – None

5.2 Financial – None

5.3 Legal – The Council require to review taxi fares in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

5.4 HR – None

5.5 Equalities – None

5.6 Risk – None

6. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Letter from Mr Robson dated 2nd February 2012

Appendix 2 – Letter from Mr MacIntyre dated 21st February 2012

Appendix 3 – Letter from Mr Robertson dated 28th February 2012

Appendix 4 - Letter from Dunoon Taxi Operators and Drivers Association
dated 22.11.11

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