

ANGUS COUNCIL

CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE – 4 APRIL 2019

TAXI FARES REVIEW

REPORT BY THE SERVICE LEADER - LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC

ABSTRACT

It is recommended that the Civic Licensing Committee note the commencement of the process of reviewing the taxi fares fixed for the Angus local authority area as required by section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee note the process of reviewing the taxi fares fixed for the Angus local authority area as required by Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and the commencement of the review process.

2. BACKGROUND

In terms of section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the licensing authority must fix scales for the fares and other charges in connection with the hire or with the arrangements for the hire of a taxi, within 18 months, beginning with the date on which the scales came into effect. The scales came into effect on 1 September 2018. This committee agreed to increase the taxi fares at the conclusion of the last review process.

All taxi operators licensed in Angus will be written to and asked for their proposals for any changes. Operators will be given one calendar month to respond. It is proposed to also make use of the "Have Your Say" section of Angus Council's website in addition to messages being placed on Angus Council's Facebook page and Twitter feed. A public meeting will be arranged with taxi operators to provide an opportunity for face to face representations.

A further report will be submitted to this committee advising of the proposals received and giving an indication of the approximate percentage increases of the proposals submitted using sample journey lengths.

The proposed scales, as determined by the Committee, will require to be published in a newspaper circulating in this area. In publishing the proposed scales, the Council must:-

- (i) set out proposed scales
- (ii) explain the effect of the proposed scales
- (iii) propose a date on which the proposed scales are to come into effect; and
- (iv) state that any person may make representations in writing until the relevant date.

The relevant date is a date specified by the licensing authority falling at least one month after the first publication by the authority of the proposed scales.

Again, it is proposed to also make use of the "Have Your Say" section of Angus Council's website in addition to messages being placed on Angus Council's Facebook page and Twitter feed during this part of the process.

In the event that, following publication of the proposed scales, no representations are received by the relevant date, and then authority will already have been sought via the Committee report to permit the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to implement the proposed scales, as required.

In the event that representations are received then a further report will be submitted to this Committee to consider those representations.

The Committee is asked to note that any decision taken by the Committee will be intimated to taxi operators who will be afforded the opportunity to appeal any decision taken by the Committee to the Traffic Commissioner for the Scottish Traffic Area.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There will be no financial implications arising directly from this report.

4. **HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

There are no Human Rights issues arising directly from this report.

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