

ANGUS COUNCIL

CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE – 31 OCTOBER 2019

TAXI FARE REVIEW

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

**ABSTRACT**

This Report relates to the proposed review of the taxi fare structure for Angus.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee;-

- (i) review the existing scales and consider the proposed scale options contained in **Appendix 1** to this report;
- (ii) propose new scales, whether by adopting one of the proposed options, amending one of the proposed options or fixing the scales at the same rate, and instruct the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to publish the scales, proposed implementation date and details of how to make representations;
- (iii) in the event that no representations are received at least one month after the date of publication of the proposed scales, delegate authority to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to implement the fixed scales as soon as possible in consultation with Police Scotland;
- (iv) note that any recommended increase represents the maximum fare chargeable by taxi drivers and is not a compulsory fare;
- (v) note the requirement in terms of meter changes within the body of the report and determine to follow the process used currently by Dundee City Council in the event of any meter change.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. 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 on the date on which the scales came into effect. The current scales came into effect on **1 September 2018**.
- 2.2. At its meeting on 4 April 2019, the Committee agreed to initiate a review of the current scales and agreed to consult with operators in this regard. All taxi operators licensed in Angus were written to and their proposals for any changes were requested no later than 17 June 2019. To further advertise the consultation, use was made of Angus Council's website via the "Have Your Say" section as well as Angus Council's Facebook and Twitter accounts. The taxi operators were also invited to attend a consultation meeting with council officers on 10 June 2019, however, none of the taxi Operators attended this meeting.
- 2.3. Eight responses were received from Operators which, combined, provided three proposals. Two of these proposals are shown at **Appendix 1** of this report. One of the proposals was later withdrawn by the Operator who submitted this. The majority of the responses did not seek any change to the current scales. One proposal seeks an increase to the current scales.

- 2.4. **Appendix 2** has been prepared to provide members with an indication of the approximate percentage increases in respect of the options submitted. Sample journey lengths of 1, 2, 3, 5, 10 and 15 miles with no waiting periods have been used to calculate the percentage increases.
- 2.5. Once the Committee propose scales, these will be published in the "Courier". In publishing proposed scales, the Council must:-
- (i) set out the 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
- 2.6. 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.
- 2.7. In the event that, following publication of the proposed scales, no representations are received within the period for representations to be made, then authority is sought to permit the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to implement the scales in consultation with Police Scotland.
- 2.8. In the event that representations to the proposed scales are received then a further report will be submitted to this Committee to consider those representations.
- 2.9. The Committee is asked to note that, with regard to any meter change, Dundee City Council's Testing Centre's current procedure is for each taxi driver to attend at a qualified garage for a meter update. The meter change would then be checked at the annual test.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There will be no financial implications arising from this report.

### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

The issues dealt with in this Report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment is not required.

**NOTE:** Background papers

1. Consultation letter to Taxi Operators dated 16 May 2019

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**OPTION 1 – NO CHANGE IN FARES AS SUBMITTED BY ROBERT INNES, COLIN WATT, PHILLIP POWELL, DUNCAN MCKENZIE, JAMES BROWN and MARK JAMES**

**A. GENERAL**

**TARIFF ONE**

Hirings begun between 6am and 6pm Monday to Friday inclusive (except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Hogmanay, New Years Day, and 2 January).

- (A) If the distance does not exceed 1660 yards – for the whole distance - £3.50
- (B) If the distance exceeds 1660 yards:
  - (1) For the first 1660 yards - £3.50
  - (2) For each additional 85 yards or uncompleted part thereof – 10p
- (C) Waiting time – for each period of 15 seconds – 10p

**TARIFF TWO**

Hirings begun between 6pm and 6am Monday to Friday and from 6pm Friday till 6am Monday (except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Hogmanay, New Years Day and 2 January). This tariff is also applicable for hirings commenced between 6am and 6pm on Christmas Eve and Hogmanay.

- (A) If the distance does not exceed 1260 yards – for the whole distance - £3.80
- (B) If the distance exceeds 1260 yards:
  - (1) For the first 1260 yards -£3.80
  - (2) For each additional 75 yards or uncompleted part thereof – 10p
- (C) Waiting time – for each period of 15 seconds – 10p

**TARIFF THREE**

Hirings begun between 6pm on Christmas Eve through to 6am on 27 December and from 6pm on Hogmanay through to 6am on 3 January.

- (A) If the distance does not exceed 1320 yards – for the whole distance –£5.10
- (B) If the distance exceeds 1320 yards:
  - (1) For the first 1320 yards - £5.10
  - (2) For each additional 65 yards or uncompleted part thereof – 10p
- (C) Waiting time – for each period of 10 seconds – 10p

**TARIFF FOUR**

(Only for larger type vehicles carrying five or more passengers at their own request) for hirings begun between 6pm on Christmas Eve through to 6am on 27 December and from 6pm on Hogmanay through to 6am on 3 January.

- (A) If the distance does not exceed 1320 yards – for the whole distance – £6.20
- (B) If the distance exceeds 1320 yards:
  - (1) For the first 1320 yards – £6.20
  - (2) For each additional 65 yards or uncompleted part thereof – 20p
- (C) Waiting time – for each period of 13 seconds – 20p

**B – LARGE MINI-BUS TYPE VEHICLES**

**(Carrying five or more passengers together at their own request)**

- (A) Where Tariff 1 would apply – Charge Tariff 2
- (B) Where Tariff 2 would apply – Charge Tariff 3
- (C) Where Tariff 3 would apply – Charge Tariff 4

## **C – ADDITIONAL CHARGES**

1. Extras to be added on all tariffs 10p per case or object carried.
2. £60 to be levied in respect of passenger soiling a vehicle which results in the vehicle being taken out of service for any period of time.
3. Where a taxi is called but not used – normal fare to be charged according to distance as if the taxi had been occupied from the time it left the stance or garage.
4. Extras to be charged on all tariffs for each passenger after the first passenger 20p

**OPTION 2 SUBMITTED BY SCOTT FERRIER, VIP TAXIS, FORFAR** (for comparison, the proposed changes are highlighted in bold font with the current tariff details shown in brackets alongside these)

## A. GENERAL

### TARIFF ONE

Hiring's begun between 6am and 6pm Monday to Friday inclusive (except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Hogmanay, New Years Day, and 2 January).

(A) If the distance does not exceed 1660 yards – for the whole distance - **£3.60** (£3.50)

(B) If the distance exceeds 1660 yards:

(1) For the first 1660 yards - **£3.60** (£3.50)

(2) For each additional **80** (85) yards or uncompleted part thereof – 10p

(C) Waiting time – for each period of 15 seconds – 10p

### TARIFF TWO

Hiring's begun between 6pm and 6am Monday to Friday and from 6pm Friday till 6am Monday except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Hogmanay, New Years Day and 2 January. This tariff is also applicable for hiring's commenced between 6am and 6pm on Christmas Eve and Hogmanay.

(A) If the distance does not exceed 1260 yards – for the whole distance - **£4.00** (£3.80)

(B) If the distance exceeds 1260 yards:

(1) For the first 1260 yards - **£4.00** (£3.80)

(2) For each additional **70** (75) yards or uncompleted part thereof – 10p

(C) Waiting time – for each period of **10**(15) seconds – 10p

### TARIFF THREE

Hiring's begun between 6pm on Christmas Eve through to 6am on 27 December and from 6pm on Hogmanay through to 6am on 3 January.

(A) If the distance does not exceed 1320 yards – for the whole distance – **£5.20** (£5.10)

(B) If the distance exceeds 1320 yards:

(1) For the first 1320 yards - **£5.20** (£5.10)

(2) For each additional **60** (65) yards or uncompleted part thereof – 10p

(C) Waiting time – for each period of 10 seconds – 10p

### TARIFF FOUR

(Only for larger type vehicles carrying five or more passengers at their own request) for hiring's begun between 6pm on Christmas Eve through to 6am on 27 December and from 6pm on Hogmanay through to 6am on 3 January.

(A) If the distance does not exceed 1320 yards – for the whole distance – **£6.40** (£6.20)

(B) If the distance exceeds 1320 yards:

(1) For the first 1320 yards - **£6.40** (£6.20)

(2) For each additional **60** (65) yards or uncompleted part thereof – 20p

(C) Waiting time – for each period of **(10)**13 seconds – 20p

## B – LARGE MINI-BUS TYPE VEHICLES

**(Carrying five or more passengers together at their own request)**

(A) Where Tariff 1 would apply – Charge Tariff 2

(B) Where Tariff 2 would apply – Charge Tariff 3

(C) Where Tariff 3 would apply – Charge Tariff 4

## C – ADDITIONAL CHARGES

~~1. Extras to be added on all tariffs 10p per case or object carried.~~

2. **£80** (£60) to be levied in respect of passenger soiling a vehicle which results in the vehicle being taken out of service for any period of time.

3. Where a taxi is called but not used – normal fare to be charged according to distance as if the taxi had been occupied from the time it left the stance or garage.

~~4. Extras to be charged on all tariffs for each passenger after the first passenger 20p.~~

5. **Where a taxi is called out to a destination out from its licence area & travels on to another area outwith its licence area a metered charge will be charged from its stance to that area & onward to its destination.**

## CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE – 31 OCTOBER 2019

Percentage increases in respect of sample journeys with no waiting periods included.

**OPTION 1 - NO CHANGE IN FARES AS SUBMITTED BY ROBERT INNES, COLIN WATT, PHILLIP POWELL, DUNCAN MCKENZIE, JAMES BROWN and MARK JAMES**

Journey Distance (miles)	Tariff 1 (Fare in £)	%	Tariff 2 (Fare in £)	%	Tariff 3 (Fare in £)	%	Tariff 4 (Fare in £)	%
1	3.70	0	4.50	0	5.80	0	7.60	0
2	5.70	0	6.90	0	8.50	0	13.00	0
3	7.80	0	9.20	0	11.20	0	18.40	0
5	11.90	0	13.90	0	16.70	0	29.40	0
10	22.30	0	25.60	0	30.20	0	56.40	0
15	32.70	0	37.40	0	43.70	0	83.40	0

**OPTION 2 SUBMITTED BY SCOTT FERRIER, VIP TAXIS, FORFAR**

Journey Distance (miles)	Tariff 1 (Fare in £)	%	Tariff 2 (Fare in £)	%	Tariff 3 (Fare in £)	%	Tariff 4 (Fare in £)	%
1	3.80	<b>2.7</b>	4.80	<b>6.67</b>	6.00	<b>3.45</b>	8.00	<b>5.26</b>
2	6.00	<b>5.26</b>	7.30	<b>5.80</b>	8.90	<b>4.71</b>	13.80	<b>6.15</b>
3	8.20	<b>5.13</b>	9.80	<b>6.52</b>	11.80	<b>5.36</b>	19.60	<b>6.52</b>
5	12.60	<b>5.88</b>	14.80	<b>6.47</b>	17.70	<b>5.99</b>	31.40	<b>6.8</b>
10	23.60	<b>5.83</b>	27.40	<b>7.03</b>	32.40	<b>7.28</b>	60.80	<b>7.8</b>
15	34.60	<b>5.80</b>	40.00	<b>6.95</b>	47.00	<b>7.55</b>	90.00	<b>7.91</b>