

ANGUS COUNCIL

CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE – 20 MAY 2021

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 summary of responses received from operators contained within section 2.3 of this report;
- (ii) propose new scales 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; and
- (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.

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 **29 February 2020**.
- 2.2. At its meeting on 18 February 2021, 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 either by email or by post and their proposals for any changes were requested no later than 1 April 2021. 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.
- 2.3. Five email responses were received in relation to the consultation. One of these email replies was sent on behalf of seven operators. All of the responses propose no change is made to the fares, all providing some detail about the impact COVID – 19 has had on the trade. The responses indicate that any increase to the fares may cause them difficulty as COVID – 19 restrictions ease and people start to travel more regularly. One response set out their primary position which was that no change to the fares should be made and, if any changes were to be made, it should be a decrease. No detailed proposal was however submitted in respect of this and it was not their primary proposal. The clear majority of responses indicate therefore that any change to the fares in the current climate would not be welcome. It is still open to the Committee to consider other options for amending the fare scales however, it is not recommended that changes should be made where there is neither support nor evidence for this.

- 2.4. Where the Committee do not propose to amend the scales, a formal process of advertising and implementing these still requires to be undertaken to ensure that the review process is complete.
- 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.

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. Report 51/21, 18 February 2021 – Report initiating Taxi Fare Review Consultation

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OPTION 1 – NO CHANGE IN FARES AS SUBMITTED BY ROBERT INNES, PAUL JACK, MIKE HEALY, COLIN WATT, PHILLIP POWELL, DUNCAN MCKENZIE, JAMES BROWN, SHEANAGH MCINTYRE, JOHN SWANKIE, JAMES SIMPSON

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