

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of SPECIAL HYBRID MEETING of the **CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 5 December 2023 at 10.25am.

Present: Councillors GEORGE MEECHAN, LLOYD MELVILLE, KENNY BRAES, LINDA CLARK, BRENDA DURNO, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, ROSS GREIG, GAVIN NICOL, JILL SCOTT and BETH WHITESIDE.

Councillor MEECHAN, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies intimated.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND STATEMENTS OF TRANSPARENCY

There were no declarations of interest or statements of transparency made.

3. TAXI FARES REVIEW

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 November 2023, there was submitted Report No 335/23 by the Director of Legal, Governance & Change which related to the current review of the taxi fare structure for Angus.

The Report advised that following the consultation period eight separate responses had been received. Three of the responses suggested changes to the current fares, others included suggestions to maintain the status quo. Of the responses proposing no change, two responses were from one individual and their business; and one response was on behalf of the sender and 4 other named individuals, who had confirmed this as their representation. One of the 4 had also submitted a separate response on their own behalf. Reasons cited for no change to the current fares included, or alluded to, adverse effects anticipated on business by increasing fares, the 'cost of living crisis' and decreased fuel prices since the previous fare increase. All suggestions and comments received were shown at Appendix 1 to the Report, together with the current fare structure.

The Committee heard from Mr Mitchell who urged the Committee to approve option 2, Mrs Forman who urged members to approve option 3 and finally, Mr Gibson who urged the Committee to approve option 4, all as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report.

The three taxi operators expressed their views on the various options, highlighting their increased running costs and the difficulties with them having to keep a large amount of small change in their vehicles due to the current fare structure. Members then asked a number of questions.

At this stage, the Committee agreed to adjourn the meeting for 5 minutes to allow officers to clarify a matter with regards Appendix 2 of the Report. The meeting resumed at 10.59am.

The Convener advised the Committee that the table of related calculations contained in Appendix 2 to the Report was correct and was calculated in miles rather than yards.

COUNCILLOR MELVILLE, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BRAES, MOVED THAT OPTION 4 SUBMITTED BY N. GIBSON, LORIMER CABS LTD AND DETAILED IN APPENDIX 1 OF THE REPORT BE APPROVED.

Councillor Meechan, seconded by Councillor Clark, moved as an amendment that the fares remain the same and that no increase take place based on the submitted representations received.

On a vote being taken, the members voted: -

For the motion: -

Councillors Melville, Braes, Clark, Durno, Fotheringham, Greig, Nicol, Scott and Whiteside (9).

For the amendment: -

Councillor Meechan (1).

The motion was declared carried resulting in option 4 being approved.

The Committee then agreed: -

- (i) to instruct the Director of Legal, Governance & Change to advertise the new proposed scales as appended to the Report (Appendix 1 to this minute), proposed implementation date and details of how to make representations; and
- (ii) that in the event that no adverse representations were received at least one month after the date of advertising of the new proposed scales, to delegate authority to the Director of Legal, Governance & Change to implement the proposed scales as soon as possible in consultation with Police Scotland;

which together with the motion became the findings of the meeting.

4. LATE HOURS CATERING LICENCE EXEMPTION APPLICATION

There was submitted Report No 346/23 by the Director of Legal, Governance & Change regarding an application for an exemption from the requirement to obtain a late hours catering licence for a particular occasion which required to be determined by the Committee, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report.

The Committee agreed: -

- (i) to accept the letter received from Gosschalks Solicitors, on behalf of their client Wm Morrison Supermarkets Ltd, dated 17 November 2023, as an application for exemption from the requirement to hold a late hours catering licence;
- (ii) to grant the application to Wm Morrison Supermarkets Ltd for exemption from the requirement to hold a late hours catering licence for Morrison's Petrol Filling Station, Hume Street, Arbroath, between 23.00 and 00.00 from Thursday 21 December 2023 to Saturday 23 December 2023 inclusive; and
- (iii) to impose the Angus Council late hours catering conditions applicable to late hours catering licences attached as Appendix 2 to the Report, subject to (a) the words "licence holder" being replaced with the word "applicant" and (b) the word "licence" where otherwise appearing being replaced with the word "exemption".

**APPENDIX 1 to the minute of meeting of the
Civic Licensing Committee of 5 December 2023
(Article 3 refers)**

CURRENT FARES SCHEME

A - GENERAL

TARIFF ONE	Hirings begun between 6am and 6pm Monday to Friday inclusive (except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Hogmanay, New Year's Day and 2nd January). (a) If the distance does not exceed 1660 yards - for the whole distance - £4.20 (b) If the distance exceeds 1660 yards: (1) For the first 1660 yards - £4.20 (2) For each additional 75 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 until 6am Monday (except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Hogmanay, New Year's Day and 2nd 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 - £4.70 (b) If the distance exceeds 1260 yards: (1) For the first 1260 yards - £4.70 (2) For each additional 67 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 27th December and 6pm on Hogmanay through to 6am on 3rd 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 60 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 27th December and 6pm on Hogmanay through to 6am on 3rd January (a) If the distance does not exceed 1320 yards - for the whole distance - £7.60 (b) If the distance exceeds 1320 yards: (1) For the first 1320 yards - £7.60 (2) For each additional 60 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. | £60.00 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. |
| 2. | 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. |