

ANGUS COUNCIL

CIVIC LICENCING COMMITTEE – 15 MAY 2025

TAXI FARES REVIEW

REPORT BY ACTING DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE AND CHANGE

1. ABSTRACT

This Report relates to the current review of the taxi fares structure of Angus.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

This proposal aligns to the following Council Plan Priorities:

Caring for our Economy

Support Angus to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Encourage and invest in fair work opportunities for those that live, work and study in Angus.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee: -

- (i) Considers the taxi fares review representations, received in response to the initial consultation which ended 15 March 2025, contained in Appendix 1 to this report and the table related calculations contained in Appendix 3;
- (ii) proposes new fare scales, whether these are unchanged from the existing fare scales, scales set out within Appendix 2, or alternative options;
- (iii) requests the Director of Legal, Governance and Change to advertise the new proposed scales;
- (iv) delegates authority to the Director of Legal, Governance and Change, in the event that no adverse representations are received, in consultation with Police Scotland, to implement the proposed scales, as soon as possible within one month of the date of advertising of the new proposed scales.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In terms of section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the licencing 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 March 2024.
- 4.2 At its meeting on 13 February 2025, the Committee agreed to initiate a review of the current scales and agreed to consult with operators in this regard. All taxi operators in Angus were therefore written to and their proposals for any changes were requested no later than 15 March 2025.

5. CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 During this consultation period, seven separate responses were received. Three of the responses suggested changes to the current fares, with the rest suggesting to maintain the status quo. Of the responses proposing no change, three responses were from individuals and one response from an individual on behalf of their business. Reasons cited for no change to current fares include, or allude to, adverse effects anticipated on business by increasing fees, a reduction in taxi use due to the last fare rise, the high cost of living and competition. All suggestions and comments received are shown at Appendix 1. The current fare structure is shown at Appendix 2.
- 5.2 For ease of reference, the fare scale changes suggested by consultees are set out in a table in Appendix 3. The table shows the current fare scales calculated over journeys of 1 mile, 2 miles, 3 miles, 5 miles, 10 miles and 15 miles respectively. It also shows what the fares would be over the same distances for the scales suggested by consultees. The fares are calculated to the nearest penny. The table also compares the suggested fares with the current ones for the equivalent journey. These are shown as a percentage. The percentages are calculated to the nearest whole figure, or half percent where there is a difference which is less than 1% total.

6. PROPOSALS

- 6.1 Having considered the representations received and relevant evidence, it is open to the Committee to propose such fare scales as they consider appropriate, whether these are in line with an option suggested within Appendix 3 or otherwise.
- 6.2 Once the Committee proposes 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.

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

The new proposed scales will also be advertised on the Angus Council website along with the relevant social media platforms.

- 6.3 In the event that, following publication of the proposed scales, no adverse representations are received within the period for representations to be made, then authority is sought to permit the Director of Legal, Governance and Change to implement the scales in consultation with Police Scotland.
- 6.4 In the event that adverse representations to the proposed scales are received then a further report will be submitted to this Committee to consider those representations.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no financial implications to Angus Council arising from this report. If the scales are changed requiring meter recalibration, there will be an associated cost to taxi operators.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

There are no direct risk implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

10. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached.

11. CHILDRENS RIGHTS AND WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment has been carried out within the EIA.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

1. Minute 13 February 2025 initiating Taxi Fares Review Consultation.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1: Response Proposals and comments

Appendix 2: Current Fare Structure

Appendix 3: New Fare Structure Table