

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**Licensing Committee****29 October 2015****Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 – Taxi Fare Review****Report by Head of Legal Services****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The Council is required to review the scales of fares for Taxis in this area at intervals of not more than 18 months. This report outlines the findings of the most recent review and proposes that there be no increase in the fares or alteration to Tariffs.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 In terms of Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the Council is required to review its scale of fares and other charges for the hire of Taxis at intervals not exceeding 18 months, whether or not any alterations are proposed. The existing scale has been in force since September 2014.
- 1.2 In accordance with the legislation a review was carried out in August 2015 and all individual operators and organisations representing, or appearing to be, representative of the operators of taxis were invited to put forward their proposals. Letters were sent to 74 Taxi Operators, 49 Private Hire Vehicle Operators with meters fitted and 2 organisations. 10 replies were received.
- 1.3 7 of those that responded wanted the fares to remain unchanged, 2 wanted the fares to be increased and 2 of those that responded suggested a change to the Tariff times.
- 1.4 As the Committee is aware, the Council operates 3 Tariffs. These provide for increasing rates from Tariff 1 to Tariff 3. Tariff 1 applies from 0630 hours until 2300 hours and for the first 880 yards of a journey with certain further provisos. Tariff 2 applies between 2300 hours and 0630 hours, again with provisos. Tariff 3 applies during the Christmas and New Year periods also with provisos. A copy of the current approved Tariffs is annexed to this report. One of those who proposed no increase suggested that normal Tariff be imposed on 24 and 31 December and the other that Tariff 2 be imposed from 1800 hours on a Friday to 0600 hours on a Monday with Tariff 3 being imposed when Christmas/New Year falls on a weekend.
- 1.5 The proposed scale of fares now requires to be advertised in the local press and interested parties require to be invited to respond within one month of the advertisement.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 It is proposed that the scale of fares be advertised in the local press and that interested parties are invited to respond within one month of the advertisement. These responses would then be considered at the Licensing Committee meeting on 10 December 2015.
- 2.2 It is proposed that if no representations are received, the scale of fares and existing Tariffs remain unchanged. This would have the effect of continuing fares where there is a meter in place at the present levels until a further review is carried out in Summer 2017.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that, if after the scale of fees are advertised in the local press, no responses are received, the existing scale of fares and Tariffs remain unchanged and a further review be carried out in Summer 2017.

Author(s)

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
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Council Text Phone Number 01738 442573

1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	None
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	None
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	None
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 Maintaining the current fare structure for the hire of Taxis and Private Hire vehicles will promote a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy by allowing affordable travel for members of the community. Equally it will support people to lead independent, healthy and active lives.

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 Offering an affordable travel option will promote an inclusive economy and support people to lead independent lives. It will give access to commercial and leisure venues throughout the region to the benefit of all.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 Not applicable

Workforce

2.2 Not applicable

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

The proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) and are not considered to be relevant

Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.2 Not applicable

4. Consultation

Internal

4.1 Not applicable

External

4.2 All Operators of Taxis, Private Hire vehicles and organisations appearing to be, or to be representative of, the operators of taxis were consulted with the majority wishing to retain the present fare structure.

5. Communication

Not applicable

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Not applicable

3. APPENDICES

Not applicable

Perth & Kinross Council - Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 - Scale of Taxi Fares

Tariff 1

For Hiring's between 0630 hrs and 2300 hrs excluding Sundays and specified Public Holidays set out in Tariff 2. If the initial distance does not exceed 880 yards - for the whole distance - £3.00. If the distance exceeds 880 yards - for the first 880 yards - £3.00 and for each additional 110 yards or part thereof - 10 pence.

The charge for waiting time will be 20 pence per minute.

Tariff 2

- (a) For Hiring's between 2300 hrs and 0630 hrs excluding December 24, 25, 26, 31 and January 1 & 2.
- (b) For Hiring's begun on a Sunday except if Sunday falls on December 24, 25, 26, 31 and January 1 & 2.
- (c) For Hiring's begun on Good Friday, Easter Monday, May Day Bank Holiday, Spring Bank Holiday and August Bank Holiday.

If the initial distance does not exceed 880 yards - for the whole distance - £3.80. If the distance exceeds 880 yards - for the first 880 yards - £3.80 and for each additional 88 yards or part thereof - 10 pence.

The charge for waiting time will be 25 pence per minute.

Operator _____

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Tariff 3

- (a) For Hiring's begun on December 24, 25, 26, 31 and January 1 and 2.

If the initial distance does not exceed 880 yards - for the whole distance - £4.50. If the distance exceeds 880 yards - for the first 880 yards - £4.50 and for each additional 74 yards or part thereof 10 pence.

The charge for waiting time will be 30 pence per minute.

Soiling Charge

A charge of £37.50 for any person soiling the vehicle.

Notes

- (a) All fares inclusive of VAT.
- (b) The driver must assist in loading and unloading without extra charge.
- (c) When a taxi is called but not used, a charge shall be allowed as regards distances as if the taxi had been occupied from the time it left the stance.

Complaints

Any complaints should be made at once at a Police Office. The number of the taxi should always be quoted.

Licence No _____

(PKC Design Team - 2014918)

