

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LICENSING PANEL

28 MAY 2010

PROPOSED REVIEW OF TAXI FARES

Report by Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To invite the Licensing Panel to consider reviewing the scales for taxi fares and associated charges.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In terms of section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 the Licensing Authority has a duty to fix scales for taxi fares and associated charges for its area, and to review these scales at intervals not exceeding 18 months from the date on which current scales came into effect. The Licensing Authority is also obliged to consult with persons or organisations appearing to them to be, or be representative of, the operators of taxis within their area.
- 2.2 The most recent review process was concluded in May 2009, following a review of taxi fares and associated charges commencing in November 2008 at the request of representatives of the Taxi Trade Association.
- 2.3 On 7 May 2009, the Local Government Licensing Panel agreed that: (i) there be no increase to taxi fares and associated charges, including fuel surcharge, for a period of one year; (ii) there should be no increase in application fees for financial year 2009/2010; and (iii) that the Panel would consider future reports and review the position regarding (i) and (ii) in respect of the financial year 2010/11.
- 2.4 Accordingly, the current position is that although taxi fares were reviewed in 2009, the fare structure approved by the Local Government Licensing Panel on 13 March 2008 which became effective on 1 May 2008 remains in place. (Copy attached at Appendix 1 to this report).

3. THE PROPOSED REVISED STRUCTURE

- 3.1 No request has been formally received from representatives of the Taxi Trade Association, however, it is proposed that consideration be given to the following proposals, being similar to the previous request made by the Taxi Trade Association in November 2008. If agreed in principle and subject to the statutory procedures, these would be brought into

effect from autumn 2010, a period of 2.5 years since the last increase. The current relevant distances and charges are included in brackets for ease of reference:-

PROPOSALS FOR REVIEW OF TAXI FARES & CHARGES

Distance not exceeding 1,760 yds. (2,000 yds)	£2.50
Each additional 140 yds (160 yds) (£0.15)	£0.15
Hires between Midnight and 6am surcharge (£0.80)	£1.00
For hires accepted on 1 and 2 January and 25 and 26 December in each year (no change)	Double fare
5, 6 and 7-seater Taxis For each passenger in excess of four. (£1.00)	£1.25
Waiting Time per 5 mins (£1.60)	£1.80
Taxi called by hirer and not used (£2.50)	£3.00
Radio call charge (£0.25)	£0.50
Fouling Charge (£40.00)	£50.00

4. COMPARISON WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES

Distance (not exceeding)	1 Mile	1.5 Miles	2 Miles	2.5 Miles	3 Miles
East Ayrshire (Current)	£2.50	£3.10	£3.92	£4.75	£5.57
East Ayrshire (Proposed)	£2.50	£3.44	£4.38	£5.32	£6.27
South Ayrshire (December 2008)	£4.40	£4.40	£6.20	£6.20	£8.00
North Ayrshire (October 2007)	£2.60	£3.30	£4.00	£4.70	£5.40

The current full structure for taxi fares and associated charges is submitted for consideration by the Panel (Attached at Appendix 1 to this report).

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 In terms of Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 it is the duty of the licensing authority to fix and review fare scales. Before reviewing or fixing fare scales, the licensing authority shall consult with representatives of the taxi operators and give notice of the proposals in local newspapers in order that any representations or objections may be lodged and considered.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Nil.

8. CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The Panel is invited to consider the proposal to review the taxi fares and associated charges. If approved in principle, the proposals will be intimated to all operators and advertised in local newspapers in order that any representations or objections may be lodged. A report on the outcome of these consultations will be prepared for a future meeting of the Panel to enable Members to consider any objections or representations received, prior to making a final decision.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 It is recommended that the Panel consider the contents of this report and determine: -

- (i) Whether or not to initiate the taxi fare review process on the basis of the proposals; and
- (ii) In the event that (i) is not agreed, to either remit to the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support to bring forward alternative proposals to a future meeting of the Panel, or agree such alternative proposals as might be expressed by Members of the Panel.

Alex McPhee
Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support

AMcP/GK
18 May 2010

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Any person wishing to inspect of the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 576061 and ask for Mr David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory services or e-mail david.mitchell@east-ayrshire.gov.uk.

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982

TAXI FARE STRUCTURE
(Effective from 1 May 2008)

Fares by Distance

The following shall be the maximum fares, charged by distance, for the hire of a Taxi:

Not exceeding 2000 yd £2.50

For each additional 150 yds (or part thereof) £0.15

These rates shall include going from the nearest stand to the hirer's address or other place of uplift.

Surcharges

For hires accepted between the hours of
Midnight and 6.00am £0.80

For hires accepted on 1 and 2 January
and 25 and 26 December in each year Double Fare

5, 6 and 7-seater Taxis
For each passenger in excess of four £1.00 per passenger

Waiting Time
After an initial period of 5 minutes - each
period of 5 minutes (or part thereof) £1.60

Taxi called by hirer and not used £2.50

Radio call charge £0.25

Fouling Charge £40.00

Notes

1. The fare for any distance in excess of 5 miles shall be the subject of special agreement. The taximeter must be operated on all hires within the said 5-mile limit.
2. Where prior to the acceptance of the hire, the hirer requests to hire by time rather than by distance and the driver agrees, such fare may be charged as proposed by the driver and agreed by the hirer at that time.
3. Where an operator is registered for VAT purposes, a surcharge, calculated at the rate of Valued Added Tax current at the time, may be charged in respect of each hire. The operator must display an appropriate notice to this effect within the vehicle.
4. If requested by the hirer, the driver shall assist with the loading and unloading of luggage without any extra charge.

Any complaint should be addressed to the Department of Finance and Corporate Support, Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services, Licensing Unit, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock (Tel: 01563 576025), or to any Police Station. The Licence Numbers of the Taxi and the Taxi Driver should be quoted where possible.

David Mitchell

Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services