

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT LICENSING PANEL  
20 DECEMBER 2007**

**PROPOSED REVIEW OF TAXI FARES**

**Report by Executive Director of Corporate Support**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To invite the Licensing Panel to consider reviewing the scales for taxi fares and associated charges, following a request submitted by East Ayrshire Taxi Trade Council.

**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 of not more than 18 months. 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 last review of taxi fares and associated charges took place in early 2006 and the revised fare structure became effective on 1 June 2006.
- 2.3 Thistle Cabs, 6 Bonnyton Road, Kilmarnock have submitted an undated letter on behalf of East Ayrshire Taxi Trade Council, received on 13 August 2007, proposing increases in the taxi fares and associated charges. (Copy attached at Appendix 1 to this report)

**3 DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 The Taxi Trade Council has requested consideration of the following proposals which could, if agreed in principle and subject to the statutory procedures, be brought into effect from early summer 2006, a period of 2 years since the last increase.

**PROPOSALS**

Distance not exceeding 2,000 yds. (2,240 yds)	£2.50
Each additional 150 yds (170 yds)	£0.15
Hires between Midnight and 6am surcharge (£0.60)	£0.80
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. (£0.50)	£1.50
Waiting Time per 5 mins (£1.15)	£1.60
Taxi called by hirer and not used (No change)	£2.50
Radio call charge (£0.20)	£0.25
Fouling Charge (£30.00)	£40.00

The following table summarises the general effect of these proposals.

<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>CURRENT FARE</b>	<b>PROPOSED FARE</b>	<b>% INCREASE</b>
2,000 yds	2.50	2.50	9.2
2,240 yds *	2.50	2.80	12.0
1.5 miles	2.95	3.25	10.2
2 miles	3.70	4.15	11.2
2.5 miles	4.45	4.90	10.1
3 miles	5.20	5.80	11.5

(\*Current flag drop distance)

The proposals submitted by the Taxi Trade Council would lead to an average increase in fares of around 10.5%. The reduction in the 'flag drop' distance is equivalent to a 9.2% increase. Similarly, the proposal to reduce the 'additional distance' from 200 yards to 160 yards is equivalent of a 12.5% increase.

- 3.2 As not all taxi operators are members of East Ayrshire Taxi Trade Council, all 57 licensed operators have been contacted by letter and requested to complete a questionnaire. Copies of the letter and questionnaire are attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.3 Of the 57 operators, 23 have availed themselves of the opportunity to comment on the proposals and a summary of the returns is attached at Appendix 3. It is apparent from the 23 replies received, that the majority are in favour of the proposals.
- 3.4 The trade magazine, 'Private Hire and Taxi Monthly' publishes a league table of taxi fares throughout the UK and, in their October 2007 issue has calculated the current national average for a 2-mile fare to be £4.62.
- 3.5 In terms of the 44 Scottish tariffs published the average fare for a 2 mile journey is around £4.23. East Ayrshire is currently ranked at 41st in the Scottish league table, North Ayrshire at 44th, North Lanarkshire at 37th, South Lanarkshire at 35th and South Ayrshire at 29th

3.6 In discussions with some licensed operators they have requested that the Members take into consideration the major increases in the cost of fuel, insurance and maintenance over the last 2 years and also the annual increases in the fees charged by the Council.

3.7 Comparison with other authorities

<b>Distance (not exceeding)</b>	<b>1 Mile</b>	<b>1.5 Miles</b>	<b>2 Miles</b>	<b>2.5 Miles</b>	<b>3 Miles</b>
East Ayrshire (Current)	£2.50	£2.95	£3.70	£4.45	£5.20
<b>East Ayrshire (Proposed)</b>	<b>£2.50</b>	<b>£3.25</b>	<b>£4.15</b>	<b>£4.90</b>	<b>£5.80</b>
South Ayrshire (June 2007)	£2.60	£4.10	£4.10	£5.60	£5.60
North Ayrshire (October 2007)	£2.60	£3.30	£4.00	£4.70	£5.40

3.8 A revised structure for taxi fares and associated charges is submitted for consideration by the Panel, along with a copy of the current structure showing the proposed changes. (Copy attached at Appendix 4 to this report).

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Nil

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 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 then give notice of the proposed amendments in local newspapers in order that any representations or objections may be lodged and considered.

#### **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Nil.

#### **7. CONCLUSIONS**

7.1 The Panel is invited to consider the proposals contained in this report. If approved in principle, the proposals will be 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.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 It is recommended that the Panel consider the contents of this report and agree: -

- (i) to accept in principle the fare scales as set out in Appendix 1 and remit to the Executive Director of Corporate Support to carry out the statutory procedures; and
- (ii) to remit to the Executive Director of Corporate Support to submit a further report following the advertisement of the proposals in local newspapers inviting representations or objections; or
- (iii) in the event that (i) and (ii) are not agreed, to either remit to the Executive Director of 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.

**Elizabeth Morton**  
**Executive Director of Corporate Support**

3 December 2007

EM/GHS

## **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](mailto:david.mitchell@east-ayrshire.gov.uk).

1  
Thistle Cabs  
6 Bonnyton Road  
Kilmarnock  
KA1 2QS  
Tel 01563 535555

13 AUG 2007

Dear Sir,

On behalf of East Ayrshire Taxi Trades Council I would to put forward the following taxi fare increase for your approval.

Proposed Fare Changes:

Yardage: The first 2000 yards £2.50

Every 150 yards thereafter £0.15

After midnight surcharge £0.80

5,6,7 seaters: a £1.00 charge per person for fares involving more than 4 people

Waiting time per 5 minutes £1.60

Call out charge if taxi is not used £2.50

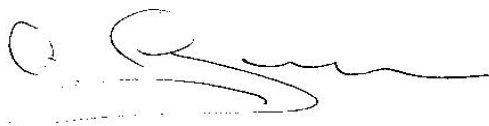
Radio call out charge £0.25

Fouling charge £40.00

Christmas and New Year surcharge double fare

I hope this meets with your approval and if you have any further enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me at the above number.

Yours Faithfully



**Department of Corporate Support**

Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director : Elizabeth Morton

Civic Government Licensing  
14 London Road  
Kilmarnock KA3 7AF

Tel: (01563) 554392  
Fax: (01563) 554390

If telephoning or calling please ask for: George Scott

October 2007

**ALL LICENSED TAXI OPERATORS**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 – PROPOSED REVIEW OF TAXI  
FARES AND ASSOCIATED CHARGES**

The Council, as Licensing Authority in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, propose to carry out a review of the current Taxi Fare structure and, as required by Section 17 of the Act are obliged to consult with persons or organisations appearing to them to be, or be representative of, the operators of taxis within their area.

A proposed increase in certain fares and charges has been proposed by East Ayrshire Taxi Trade Council and, as not all taxi operators are members of the Taxi Trade Council, it has been decided to ascertain the views of all individual licensed Taxi Operators prior to submitting a report to the Local Government Licensing Panel for consideration.

Please find attached, a questionnaire giving details of the proposals and inviting your comments. I would be obliged if you could complete the questionnaire and return it to the above address by Friday 23 November 2007. In order to provide the Licensing Panel with up-to-date information, it is imperative that all Taxi Operators provide a response.

Yours faithfully



Licensing Officer



**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**PROPOSED REVIEW OF TAXI FARES AND ASSOCIATED CHARGES**

The following proposals have been submitted by East Ayrshire Taxi Trade Council and your views are invited, prior to preparing a report for consideration by the Licensing Panel.

- 1. To retain the charge for the initial flag drop at £2.50, but to reduce the distance from 2,240 yds to 2,000 yds.

AGREE                      DISAGREE

Any further comments - .....  
.....  
.....

- 2. To retain the charge for additional distances at £0.15 but to reduce the distance from 170 yds (or part thereof) to 150 yds.

AGREE                      DISAGREE

Any further comments - .....  
.....  
.....

- 3. Surcharge for hires between Midnight and 6am – increase from £0.60 to £0.80.

AGREE                      DISAGREE

Any further comments - .....  
.....  
.....

- 4. For hires accepted on 1 and 2 January and 25 and 26 December – double fare, no change.

AGREE                      DISAGREE

Any further comments - .....  
.....  
.....

- 5. Five, 6 and 7-seater Taxis. For each passenger in excess of 4 – increase from £0.60 to £1.00 per passenger.

AGREE                      DISAGREE

Any further comments - .....  
.....  
.....

6. Waiting Time - increase from £1.15 to £1.60 per 5-minute period (or part thereof).

AGREE                      DISAGREE

Any further comments - .....  
.....  
.....

7. Call out charge if Taxi not used – retain at £2.50, no change.

AGREE                      DISAGREE

Any further comments - .....  
.....  
.....

8. Radio Call Charge – increase from £0.20 to £0.25.

AGREE                      DISAGREE

Any further comments - .....  
.....  
.....

9. Fouling Charge – increase from £30.00 to £40.00.

AGREE                      DISAGREE

Any further comments - .....  
.....  
.....

If you have any other suggestions to make, please detail them below.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Operator's Name .....

Licence Numbers held .....

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles - Plate Numbers and vehicle types.

.....  
.....  
.....

# APPENDIX 3

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

### PROPOSED REVIEW OF TAXI FARES AND ASSOCIATED CHARGES

#### SURVEY RESULTS – OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2007

1. **To retain the charge for the initial flag drop at £2.50, but to reduce the distance from 2,240 yds to 2,000 yds.**

AGREE - 21

DISAGREE - 1

Comments.

2. **To retain the charge for additional distances at £0.15 but to reduce the distance from 170 yds (or part thereof) to 150 yds.**

AGREE - 21

DISAGREE - 1

Comments.

3. **Surcharge for hires between Midnight and 6am – increase from £0.60 to £0.80.**

AGREE - 20

DISAGREE - 2

Comments.

4. **For hires accepted on 1 and 2 January and 25 and 26 December – double fare, no change.**

AGREE - 18

DISAGREE - 4

Comments.

Surcharge should be reduced to 150% - 3

No surcharge should be made - 1

5. **Five, 6 and 7-seater Taxis. For each passenger in excess of 4 – increase from £0.60 to £1.00 per passenger.**

AGREE - 17

DISAGREE - 4

Comments.

Excess passenger charge should be left unchanged – 1

Standard charge of £1.00 should be applied to each hire

6. **Waiting Time - increase from £1.15 to £1.60 per 5-minute period (or part thereof).**

AGREE - 19

DISAGREE - 3

Comments.

£1.40 per 5 minute period suggested – 1

7. **Call out charge if Taxi not used – retain at £2.50, no change.**

AGREE - 20

DISAGREE - 2

Comments.

8. **Radio Call Charge – increase from £0.20 to £0.25.**

AGREE - 16

DISAGREE - 6

Comments.

Should remain the same – 5

Should be more of an increase – 1

9. **Fouling Charge – increase from £30.00 to £40.00.**

AGREE -22

DISAGREE - 0

Comments

**Additional suggestions/comments made by operators.**

A disabled ramp or similar should be provided at the Foregate Rank to facilitate access/egress to/from taxis.

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL  
CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982**

**PROPOSED 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 Corporate Support, Civic Government Licensing, 14 London Road, Kilmarnock (Tel: 01563 554395), 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**

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982**

**TAXI FARE STRUCTURE – ALL EAST AYRSHIRE**  
**(Effective from 1 June 2006)**

**Fares by Distance**

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

Not exceeding 2240 yds (2000 yds) £2.50

For each additional 170yds (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) £0.60

For hires accepted on 1 and 2 January  
and 25 and 26 December in each year  
Double Fare  
(No change)

5, 6 and 7-seater Taxis  
For each passenger in excess of four £0.60 per passenger  
(£1.00 per passenger)

Waiting Time  
After an initial period of 5 minutes - each  
period of 5 minutes (or part thereof) £1.15 (£1.60)

Taxi called by hirer and not used £2.50 (No change)

Radio call charge £0.20 (£0.25)

Fouling Charge £30.00 (£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 Community Services Department, Licensing and Community Safety Section, 14 London Road, Kilmarnock (Tel: 01563 554395), or to any Police Station. The Licence Numbers of the Taxi and the Taxi Driver should be quoted where possible.

**William Stafford**  
**Director of Community Services**