

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LICENSING PANEL 16 MARCH 2006

REVIEW OF TAXI FARES

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To invite the Licensing Panel to fix 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.

3 DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The Licensing Panel, at the meeting held on 19 January 2006 considered the report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services dated 8 December 2005 and information provided by Mr A Gorman, on behalf of East Ayrshire Taxi Trade Council, during the course of the meeting.
- 3.2 The Members agreed to restrict the increase in the scales for taxi fares and associated charges to a maximum of 15% and to remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to carry out the necessary statutory procedures.
- 3.3 In terms of Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, notice of the proposed alterations to the Taxi Fare Structure was published in the Public Notices sections of the Kilmarnock Standard and the Cumnock Chronicle in their issues of week ending 27 January 2006. (Copy attached at Appendix 1)

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 newspapers circulating in their area in order that any representations may be lodged and considered.

- 5.2 No representations having been lodged, the Panel may now fix the fare scales and associated charges as previously agreed.
- 5.3 Where, under Section 17 of the Act, the licensing authority fix any scale or carry out any review they shall forthwith give notice in writing of their decision to such persons or organisations they have consulted as being representative of the operators of taxis within their area and inform them of the general effect of Section 18(1) of the Act.
- 5.4 In terms of Section 18 of the Act, any person who operates a taxi in an area for which scales have been fixed may, within 14 days after the decision upon the scales, appeal against these scales to the Traffic Commissioner for the Scottish Traffic Area.
- 5.5 Following the expiry of the 14-day appeal period specified, or following the abandonment or disposal of an appeal, Public Notice of the agreed fare scales must be published in newspapers circulating in their area.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Nil.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 No representations having been lodged within the one-month period specified, the Panel may now fix the scales for taxi fares and associated charges as previously agreed and advertised.
- 7.2 Where, under Section 17 of the Act, the licensing authority fix any scale or carry out any review they shall forthwith give notice in writing of their decision to such persons or organisations they have consulted as being representative of the operators of taxis within their area and inform them of the general effect of Section 18(1) of the Act.
- 7.3 In terms of Section 18 of the Act, any person who operates a taxi in an area for which scales have been fixed may, within 14 days after the decision upon the scales, appeal against these scales to the Traffic Commissioner for the Scottish Traffic Area.
- 7.4 Following the expiry of the 14-day appeal period specified, or following the abandonment or disposal of an appeal, Public Notice of the agreed fare scales must be published in newspapers circulating in their area.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Panel consider the contents of this report and agree: -
- (i) to fix the scales for taxi fares and associated charges set out in Appendix 1, as already agreed and advertised; and
 - (ii) to remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to carry out the further statutory procedures as set out in Paragraph 5 of this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

22 February 2006

WS/GS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services dated 8 December 2005.
2. Minute of the meeting of the Local Government Licensing Panel held on 19 January 2006.

Any person wishing to inspect of the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 576111 and ask for Mr John Crawford, Head of Protective Services or e-mail john.crawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk.