

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT LICENSING PANEL
23 JANUARY 2002**

REVIEW OF TAXI FARES

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To invite the Licensing Panel to fix scales for taxi fares and associated charges, taking into account the requests by representatives of the taxi trade.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 states that the Licensing Authority has a duty to fix scales for taxi fares and associated charges for its area.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The Panel, at the meeting held on 31 October 2001, considered the report by the Director of Community Services dated 10 October 2001 and agreed to fix the fare scales as set out in Appendix 3 to that report, subject to some minor alterations. It was also agreed that it be remitted to the Director of Community Services to carry out the necessary statutory procedures.
- 3.2 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 23 November 2001. (Copy attached at Appendix 1)

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Nil.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In terms of Section 17 of the Act it is the duty of the Licensing Authority to fix and review fare scales. Before reviewing or fixing scales the Licensing Authority shall consult with representatives of taxi operators and then give notice of the proposed amendments in local newspapers, in order that any representations may be lodged and considered.

- 5.2 No such representations having been lodged, the Panel may now fix the fare scales and associated charges as previously agreed.
- 5.3 In terms of Section 18 of the Act, following the expiry of the 14 day appeal period specified, or following the abandonment or disposal of an appeal, public notice of the agreed scales must be published in the local newspapers. The date when the scales come into effect shall not be earlier than 7 days after the date of the advertisement.

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 taxi fare structure and associated charges as already agreed and advertised.
- 7.2 In terms of Section 18 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, any person who operates a taxi in an area for which scales have been fixed, may within 14 days after the decision, appeal against the scales to the Traffic Commissioner for the Scottish Traffic Area.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Licensing Panel agree to
- (i) fix the taxi fare scales and associated charges as agreed and advertised, and
 - (ii) to remit to the Director of Community Services to carry out the statutory procedures.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

27 December 2001.

WS/GS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

APPENDIX 1

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982

TAXI FARE STRUCTURE - ALL EAST AYRSHIRE

Notice is hereby given that East Ayrshire Council, being the Licensing Authority in terms of Section 17 (2) of the above Act, intend to review the scales for fares and other charges in relation to taxis licensed with the Council.

In accordance with Section 3(a) of the Act, following consultations with persons or organisations appearing to be, or be representative of, the operators of taxis within the area, it is proposed that as from 1 April 2002, the undernoted Fare Structure will become effective throughout all East Ayrshire.

Fares by Distance

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

Not exceeding 2640 yds	£2.50
For each additional 200yds (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	£0.60 per hire
For hires accepted on 1 and 2 January and 25 and 26 December in each year	Normal fare + 100% (distance rates only)
5, 6 and 7-seater Taxis For each passenger in excess of four	£0.50 per passenger
Waiting Time After an initial period of 5 minutes, each subsequent period of 5 minutes (or part thereof)	£1.00
Taxi called by hirer and not used	£2.50
Radio call charge	£0.20

Fouling Charge

£30.00

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. If requested by the hirer, the driver shall assist with the loading and unloading of luggage without any extra charge.
4. Passengers should note that 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.

A copy of the existing fare scales may be inspected at the Licensing and Community Safety Section, Department of Community Services, 14 London Road, Kilmarnock and any representations in respect of the proposals should be submitted, in writing, to that address within one month of the date of publication of this notice.

**William Stafford
Director of Community Services**

AGENDA