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ADDITIONAL CIRCULATION



To: Councillor Reynolds, Convener; Councillor Malik, Vice Convener; and Councillors Allan, Bell, Delaney, Henrickson, Radley, Sellar and Townson.

Town House,
ABERDEEN 14 January 2022

LICENSING COMMITTEE

The undernoted items are circulated in connection with the meeting of the **LICENSING COMMITTEE** to be held here in the Town House on **TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2022 at 10.00 am**. This is a hybrid meeting and Members may also attend remotely.

Members of the press and public are not permitted to enter the Town House at this time. The meeting will be webcast and a live stream can be viewed on the Council's website. <https://aberdeen.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

FRASER BELL
CHIEF OFFICER - GOVERNANCE

B U S I N E S S

DEPUTATIONS

5.1 Deputation by Russell McLeod, Rainbow Cars Ltd (Pages 3 - 6)

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION - APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING LIST OF APPLICATIONS, TO BE HEARD IN PRIVATE

Applications to be heard in private and treated as confidential information in terms of Section 50(A)(3)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

9.1 Renewal of a Street Trader Licence (Pages 7 - 12)

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Mark Masson, tel 01224 522989 or email mmasson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Agenda Item 5.1

I would like to request a deputation, to address the Licencing Committee on 18th January in relation to the Taxi Fare Review

There are a few issues that need to be added to the review process.

- 1) We need to achieve a process where the trade do not have to wait for a Fare Review to be instigated, each time Aberdeen International Airport decide to increase their charges for Taxi Drivers to drop off and pick up customers from the Airport. In simplistic terms whatever AIA are charging Taxi Drivers, we should be allowed to pass on to the customer. I have attached Aberdeenshire's Tariff Card, which allows Aberdeenshire Taxi Drivers to do this, why can't the Aberdeen City Tariff Card not reflect the same ?
- 2) Currently, to pick up a customer at Aberdeen International Airport, Aberdeen Taxi Drivers are not permitted to pass on the Car Park Charge to their customers. At present the minimum charge to exit Airport Car Park is £4. We would suggest that a Maximum charge of whatever the Drop Off charge is, should be permitted to be passed onto the customer, currently that is £3. As things are at the moment, if a driver complies to Airport rules, picking up a customer within the Car Park costs £4, even on a £20 hire, driver is losing 20%, there is no one on this Committee who can think that is fair ?

Moving into the Fare Review Report.

Committee has before it 2 proposals, Option A, No Change & Option B, Decrease the basic tariff by 10%

Using a formula, is and has been, what has been accepted by all concerned for a number of revues, however after 2 years of a global pandemic, there has to some form of common sense applied. If we take a brief look at the Formula:

Without using the Average National Earnings, what would this Committee think, if the trade were sitting here today asking for a near 15% increase ? I would suggest that there is not a chance that anyone within our trade would have the audacity to even ask the question, but, by using the formula that is what the numbers would support. Before anyone gets the wrong idea, that is not what we are looking for.

Trade has little argument with the vehicle costs etc. However using a Hybrid for fuel consumption at this point may be a bit early. I would imagine no more than 10% of the fleet are currently Electric or Hybrid, that of course will change over the coming years, but we are not there yet. Which means that fuel costs are understated.

Taking the Average National Wage: For almost all of the time scale these numbers have been taken from, we have been dealing with a Global Pandemic. For the first 12 months of this, more than half the Scottish workforce have retained their employment, only for the grace of the furlough scheme, many as we know, lost their jobs and were earning nothing. We should not forget, furlough was paying 80% of peoples salary. So a simple sum £30,472 add back the 20% gives you a total of £36,566, against the £36,611 from 2020. With furlough and the job losses, that easily accounts for the minus 16.77% of lost earnings. This is not where we are now.

All respected economic experts are forecasting that the cost of living will increase, maybe for the next 2 years, but certainly for next 12 months. Energy cost are astronomical, food costs continue to rise,

our fuel costs show no sign of reducing, interest cost have now started to increase, which impacts on Mortgages, finance for car, all things that Taxi Drivers have to pay. We are not except from life, believe it or not we all take part in the same world as all of you.

Finally, can I just point out, any increase we do get, does not go straight into our pockets, as some members of public seem to think, it helps us to maintain a living wage, while dealing with increased costs, just like everyone else.

I would propose the following changes:

First 940 Yards: £2.80 (£2.60 currently)

Every Additional 160 Yards: 0.20 (unchanged)

Waiting: £26.00 per hour (£24.60 currently)

In addition. Tariff Card should allow driver to add whatever the current Third Part Charge is for Dropping at AIA. See Aberdeenshire Tariff Card attached.

Any pre booked hire from the Airport, driver should be permitted to charge whatever the current rate is for Drop Off area as a maximum charge.

Am aware that it is Committee's discretion when my deputation is heard, but I would prefer if it were at the time the report was being considered.

Russell McLeod

Regards,

Russell McLeod
Managing Director
Rainbow Cars Ltd

Business Services

Legal and Governance

View mount

Arduthie Road

Stonehaven

AB39 2DQ

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk

DX 521025 STONEHAVEN

Our Ref: FMS/Taxi Fares Review
Your Ref:

TO ALL CHIP SUPPLIERS

Email: licapps@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

30 July 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

**Civic Government (Scotland) Act, 1982
Revised Taxi Fares Scale**

I write to notify you of the fare scale approved by Aberdeenshire Council on 3rd July 2020, which will take effect from 1st September 2020. I enclose a copy of the revised fare scale card for your information.

If you no longer supply Meters for Taxis, please let me know and I will remove your name from my list.

Yours faithfully

Fiona M. Stewart

Senior Solicitor (Democratic Services)



Fare Scale (From 1st September 2020)

	Standard	10 pm to 6 am ^{1.}	Xmas/New Year ^{2.}
The FIRST 880 YARDS or part thereof	£2.70	£3.70	£4.00
Each additional 1/11th part of a mile or part thereof	£0.20	£0.20	£0.30
Waiting: 10 pence per	10 seconds	10 seconds	10 seconds

1. The late-night scale applies Mondays – Thursdays and also applies at weekends between 1800 on Fridays until 0600 on Mondays
2. The late-night scale applies to Public Holidays also from 0600 to 2200. Public Holidays are defined as 3 January, Good Friday, and May Day Public Holiday.
3. The Festive Season tariff applies to each hiring between 1800 Hrs 24 December until 0600 Hrs 27 December, and between 1800 Hrs 31 December until 0600 Hrs 3 January.
4. In vehicles so licensed carrying more than four passengers, a surcharge of 50% of the above fares may be charged.

Booking Fee - £0.50

Airport Booking Fee – Taxi Drivers may add any current charge incurred at Airports when either dropping off or picking up passengers.

Drivers must make passengers aware in advance that extra charges may be added to the fare.

Booking Fees to be shown on the meter

NOTE

Passengers are carried on the understanding that the Driver may charge a passenger creating an unacceptable mess in the Taxi a maximum of £100

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