

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: LICENSING

DATE: 23 NOVEMBER 2011

DIRECTOR: STEWART CARRUTH

TITLE OF REPORT: TAXI FARE REVIEW

REPORT NUMBER: CG/11/157

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

At its meeting on 14 September 2011 the Committee proposed to increase taxi fares and instructed officers to advertise the proposal. The proposed tariff is attached as Appendix 1. The time period for representations has expired and the Committee must decide, in light of any representations, whether to instruct officers to complete the statutory procedure for implementing the tariff, or amend the proposal and recommence consultation with the trade.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Committee -

- (a) considers any written responses received as a result of advertising the proposals for amendment to the tariff;
- (b) instructs the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to complete the necessary statutory procedures to implement the new fare structure; and
- (c) agrees that, if no appeal is lodged with the Traffic Commissioner, the tariff will take effect on 19 December 2011.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The taxi licensing budget takes account of staff involvement in a fare review and meter recalibration.

4. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

A lack of adequate number of taxis and private hire cars could have an adverse impact on the local economy.

5. **BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

Aberdeen Taxi Group submitted a proposal in February 2011 for changes to the fare tariff. Following consultation with the trade a report was submitted to the Licensing Committee on 14 September 2011. The Committee agreed to advertise the tariff with the following proposed changes –

- (a) the flag fall will remain at £2.40, but for the first 950 yards (at present £2.40 for 1000 yards)

- (b) thereafter there will be a charge of £0.20 for every 180.5 yards (at present £0.20 for every 190 yards)
- (c) increase the waiting time from £20 to £23 per hour.

The proposed tariff was advertised on 12 October 2011 asking for representations to be submitted no later than 14 November 2011. One representation has been received and is attached as Appendix 2. Members are required to consider written representations but are not obliged to hear further from the trade.

If the Committee decides to implement the tariff, the earliest date it can take effect is 15 December 2011 but the current proposal would be to recalibrate the meters on 19 and 20 December 2011.

6. **IMPACT**

By taking account of many factors, including fuels costs , average earnings etc. the proposed tariff should give a fair return to the trade without being too detrimental to the public. If fares are set too high the public would use taxis less frequently and the resulting fall in business for the trade would offset any rise in the tariff.

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

9. **REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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NOTICE TO BE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED IN VEHICLE



ABERDEEN

CITY COUNCIL

**CITY OF ABERDEEN
LICENSING OF TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE CARS
MAXIMUM CHARGES APPLICABLE TO HIRE OF TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE CARS FITTED WITH TAXI
METERS – WITH EFFECT FROM 15 DECEMBER 2011**

Basic Tariff

(A)	For the FIRST 950 yards	£2.40
(B)	For every additional 180.5 yards (Time Locked in Meter)	£0.20

Extras**(A) Waiting**

A sum calculated at the rate of £23.00 per hour.

(B) Surcharges

(NB: Surcharges 1 to 6 and 8 to 11 apply to all taxis and private hire cars fitted with a meter. Surcharge 7 applies only to hires commencing at the airport for taxis zoned to operate there).

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|------|--|---|
| (1) | For each hiring between 10pm on Mondays to Thursdays inclusive and 8am the following day. (Time Locked in Meter) | £1.00 |
| (2) | For each hiring between 10pm on Friday and 8am on the following Monday. (Time Locked in Meter) | £1.00 |
| (3) | For each hiring between 2am and 5am on Saturday and Sunday mornings. (Time Locked in Meter) | £2.00 |
| (4) | For each hiring pre-booked. | £1.00 |
| (5) | For each hiring on the Spring, May Day, Midsummer and Autumn holidays as follows:-

2011 – 16 April, 07 May, 09 July and 24 September
2012 – 22 April, 06 May, 08 July and 23 September | £1.00 |
| (6) | For each hiring between 10pm on 24 December and 5am on 27 December and between 10pm on 31 December and 5am on 3 January. (Time Locked in Meter) | Add 50% to basic tariff |
| (7) | For each hiring commencing at the Airport. | £1.00 |
| (8) | For each hiring commencing at Aberdeen Railway Station. | £0.50 |
| (9) | A charge of £50 per incident of fouling a taxi. | |
| (10) | Where more than four passengers carried. | Add 50% to basic tariff plus surcharges (excluding surcharges 4,7 and 8) |
| (11) | Payment by debit or credit card. | Add 10% to fare |

Jane G MacEachran
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

From:
To: <licensing@aberdeencity.gov.uk>
Date: 24/10/2011 19:37
Subject: Rise in Taxi Fares

To whom it may concern,

I have been a Taxi Driver for 20 years and think that it is a bad idea to raise the taxi fares from their current prices. Due to the current climate that we are in this will affect our regular customers. We are in the middle of a recession and people are finding times difficult. This will only add to the current economic problems. Regular customers will see an increase and choose not to take a taxi, especially if they are going short journeys. If you take the time and read online blogs from locals you will see that they think this is a bad idea and their opinions should count as they are the ones using the service.

If this increase comes into effect all taxi drivers will pay the initial penalty of having to update their meter. This costs approx. £35 outlay. This does not benefit the driver.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

Kind regards

Steven Walker