

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Licensing
DATE	28 January 2014
DIRECTOR	Angela Scott
TITLE OF REPORT	Taxi Fare Review – Outcome of Consultation
REPORT NUMBER	CG -14-008

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The Council as the licensing authority for taxis is required to review and fix scales for fares and any other charges.

The Council engaged the services of Halcrow Group Limited to undertake a comprehensive review of the taxi fare formula and having done so consulted with trade representatives on a review of the fares. At its meeting on 19 November 2013, the Licensing Committee proposed not to alter the existing scale and thereby fix the fares and other charges at the same rate.

In line with statutory requirements, the proposal has been advertised in a local newspaper.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (a) notes the content of this report;
- (b) confirms its decision to fix fares and other charges at their existing levels;
- (c) approves the fare card attached at Appendix 1; and
- (d) agrees that the tariff will take effect from 03 March 2014, provided no appeal is lodged with the Traffic Commissioner.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

4. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

None

5. **BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

As required by the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, an advert was published in a newspaper circulating locally, namely the Evening Express. Members of the public were invited to submit representations in writing by Monday 06 January 2014. The date for lodging representations has now passed and none were received in respect of the proposals.

If the Committee agrees, the proposed fares and surcharge will take effect on 03 March 2014. This will allow officers to complete the statutory procedures.

6. IMPACT

Corporate – Reviewing the fare formula supports the corporate aim to be transparent in how it sets taxi fares. Fares need to be set at a level that will provide a fair return to the trade. A lack of taxis could have an adverse impact on the local economy and be detrimental to the City’s reputation as a destination for business and tourism.

Public – the report will be of interest to both the taxi trade and members of the public.

Equality – as the review is proposing no change to the tariff, the proposal has a neutral impact on groups with protected characteristics; therefore, an impact assessment is not required.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Corporate – Fares need to be set at a level which will provide a fair return to the trade. This in turn will ensure there is provision of adequate taxi services for residents and visitors alike. A lack of taxis could have an adverse impact on the local economy and be detrimental to the City’s reputation as a destination for business and tourism. This fits with the Local Transport Strategy, which recognises the important gap in the transport network that taxis and private hire cars can fill.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982
Aberdeen Taxi Fares Formula Review – Report by Halcrow Group Limited

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 03 MARCH 2013**

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:-

2014 – 21 April, 05 May, 14 July and 22 September
2015 – 20 April, 04 May, 13 July and 28 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

