

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Licensing Committee
DATE	9 July 2018
REPORT TITLE	Taxi Fare Review
REPORT NUMBER	GOV/18/037
DIRECTOR	Fraser Bell
REPORT AUTHOR	Karen Gatherum
TERMS OF REFERENCE	No 3

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To present the outcome of the representations to the proposed taxi tariff scales as advertised in accordance with statutory requirements.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

- 2.1. notes the content of the report and any representations made by members of the taxi trade and the public to the consultation attached at Appendix 1;
- 2.2. confirms its decision to fix fares at the 5% increase by way of adjusting the yardage figures and for the surcharges to remain unchanged;
- 2.3. instructs the Chief Officer-Governance to amend the fare card at surcharge 5 to reflect the holiday dates for 2019 and 2020;
- 2.4. approves the Tariff Card attached at Appendix 2 and instructs the Chief Officer – Governance to provide written notice to all taxi licence holders of the new tariff and their right of appeal; and
- 2.5. agrees that the tariff will take effect from 21 August 2018, provided no appeal is lodged with the Traffic Commissioner.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 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 and trade were invited to submit representations in writing by Thursday 5 July 2018. The date for lodging representations has now

passed and one response was received in respect of the proposals and this is presented at Appendix A.

- 3.2. If the Committee agrees, having considered the representation, the proposed fares and surcharge will take effect on 21 August 2018. This will allow officers to complete the statutory procedures.
- 3.3. The Council as the licensing authority for taxis is required to review and fix scales for fares and any other charges.
- 3.4. At its meeting on 5 June 2017, the Licensing Committee proposed to increase the existing scale by 5% and fix the other existing charges at the same rate.
- 3.5. The Licensing Committee also agreed to highlight on the tariff which surcharges are third party charges.
- 3.6. In line with statutory requirements, the proposal has been advertised in a local newspaper inviting persons to make representations, which the Committee must consider when fixing the scales.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The approval of the recommendations will require the following:
 - 4.1.2. After fixing the new scales, the licensing authority must give written notice to all taxi licence holders and the persons and organisations consulted during the review, setting out and explaining the effect to the scales fixed, the date they are to come into effect and their rights of appeal to the Traffic Commissioner.
 - 4.1.3. Copies of the new Taxi Tariff Card are required to be produced and issued to all taxi and private hire licence holders to be displayed in their vehicles, approximately 1,230 and this will be funded from the Taxi licensing budget.
 - 4.1.4. Staff costs of implementing the fare review and meter calibration will be contained within existing approved licensing budgets.
 - 4.1.5. There will therefore, be a financial cost to the Licensing Team, Governance in producing and issuing the above documentation. These costs will be approximately £2000. The expenditure in the Taxi Licensing budget is met from the income raised through Taxi Licensing.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. In terms of Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 the Council, as the licensing authority for taxis is obliged to review and fix the maximum scale of fares and surcharges so that they take effect within 18 months beginning with the date on which the previous scales came into effect.
- 5.2. Operators of taxis or any person or organisation appearing to the Traffic Commissioner to be a representative of such taxi operators can appeal against any decision the Local Authority makes in respect of fixing fares and surcharges. Any appeal is made to the Traffic Commissioner for the Scottish Traffic Area within 14 days of notice being given by the Licensing Authority.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	As per paragraph 4 above.	L	Being met from existing taxi licensing budget and fully budgeted for.
Legal	As per paragraph 5 above	L	Compliance with the statutory requirements
Employee	There is no risk to employees arising from the recommendations of this report	L	N/A
Customer	The fare review will increase the cost of a taxi/private hire journey for the customer/citizen of Aberdeen	L	In line with inflation increase which is reasonable considering fares have not increased since 2012
Environment	There is no risk to the environment arising from the recommendations of this report	L	N/A
Technology	There is no risk to technology arising from the recommendations of this report	L	N/A
Reputational	As a licensing authority there would be a	M	As this report is introducing the review for consultation

	reputational risk to the Council if it failed to undertake its legal obligation and not carry out the review.		within the statutory time period any risk is mitigated.
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7. OUTCOMES

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	The option to increase the basic taxi fare may however impact on the people of Aberdeen by restricting the affordability of a taxi journey to certain members of the public. The option not to increase the basic taxi fare or surcharges will ensure that taxi journeys remain affordable for a wider customer base.
Partnerships and Alliances	Currently we anticipate there will be no impact on the taxi trade arising from the fixing of the tariff. However the Committee has instructed that a Taxi Demand Survey be undertaken and the results of this are expected to be reported in August 2018. This Demand Survey may disclose relevant economic implications for the City and the Taxi Trade

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Completed and not required
Privacy Impact Assessment	Not required
<u>Children's Rights Impact Assessment/Duty of Due Regard</u>	Not applicable

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1. None

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1. Appendix 1- the consultation response
- 10.2. Appendix 2- the amended Taxi Tariff Card

13. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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