

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Licensing Committee
DATE	22 March 2022
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Taxi Fare Review 2022
REPORT NUMBER	COM/22/067
DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	Fraser Bell
REPORT AUTHOR	Sandy Munro
TERMS OF REFERENCE	17.3

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with the responses to the draft fare tariff agreed on 18 January 2022.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Approves the fare tariff at Appendix 1;
- 2.2 Instructs the Chief Officer - Governance to notify all operators of taxis within 7 days of the new tariff and their rights of appeal to the Traffic Commissioner; and
- 2.3 In the absence of an appeal to the Traffic Commissioner, instructs the Chief Officer - Governance to publish the final fare tariff to take effect as of 30 April 2022.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the meeting of 18 January 2022 the Committee approved the circulation of the fare tariff at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 There have been no responses received to the draft fare tariff.
- 3.3 Once the final fare tariff has been agreed the operators of taxis have to be informed within 7 days. Any operator may submit an appeal to the Traffic Commissioner within 14 days of being notified of the final fare tariff.
- 3.4 In the absence of any appeal, and given that there were no representations to the draft tariff, the risk of an appeal is considered minimal, the final fare tariff must be published in a newspaper as soon as possible after the 14-day appeal period, indicating the date on which the new fare tariff is to take effect. Whilst

the previous report indicated a possible date of implementation of 31 May it should be possible to achieve this by 30 April.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The approval of the recommendations will require:

4.1.1 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.

4.1.2 Copies of the new Taxi Tariff Card to be produced and issued to all taxi and private hire licence holders to be displayed in their vehicles;

4.1.3 Staff costs of the fare review and any meter calibration will be contained within existing approved budgets.

4.1.4 There will, therefore, be a financial cost to the Licensing Team, Governance in consultation advertisements, producing and issuing the above documentation. These costs will be met within existing taxi licensing budgets.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 In terms of Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (“The Act”) the Council, as the licensing authority for taxis is obliged to regularly review and fix the scales for fares and surcharges so that they take effect within 18 months beginning with the date on which the previous scales came into effect. The Local Authority last reviewed fares in October 2020 and the tariff and surcharges took effect on 30 November 2020. Therefore, the review must be completed, and the scales fixed no later than 31 May 2022.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk	There is no strategic risk to Aberdeen City Council arising from the recommendations in this report	L	
Compliance	There is a legal risk if Aberdeen City Council does not comply with legislation	L	To ensure that the Committee approve the fare review within the statutory time scales.

Operational	There is no operational risk to Aberdeen City Council arising from the recommendations in this report	L	
Financial	There is no financial risk to Aberdeen City Council arising from the recommendations in this report	L	
Reputational	As a licensing authority there would be a reputational risk to the Council if it failed to undertake its legal obligation and not carry out the review.	L	As this report is introducing the review for consultation within the statutory time period any risk is mitigated.
Environment / Climate	There is no risk to the environment arising from the recommendations of this report	L	

7. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
Impact of Report	
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	Not applicable
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	Not applicable
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	Not applicable
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	Not applicable
Regional and City Strategies	Not applicable

UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes	The report sets out the procedure to review Taxi fares as per S17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982
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8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	Full impact assessment not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	not required

9. APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix 1- Taxi Fare Tariff

10. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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