

# Report

Report to:	<b>Licensing Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>23 April 2024</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Review of Taxi Fares</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Committee with the progress of the statutory taxi fares review in the Cambuslang and Rutherglen, Clydesdale, East Kilbride and Hamilton zones of South Lanarkshire, and seek Committee's approval for the next stage of the review

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the statutory taxi fares review procedure for the Cambuslang and Rutherglen, Clydesdale and East Kilbride zones of South Lanarkshire be further progressed, with the proposal that there should be no increase in the current fares tariff and the tariff should remain unchanged;
- (2) that the statutory taxi fares review procedure for the Hamilton zone of South Lanarkshire be further progressed, with the proposal that there should be an increase of 60 pence over a two mile hire and various other increases as detailed at Appendix 2; and
- (3) that authority be delegated to the Head of Administration and Legal Services to make the necessary arrangements to progress the statutory taxi fares review, with a further report to be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. In terms of Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (as amended) Licensing Authorities must review and fix taxi fares in their area at intervals not greater than every 18 months.
- 3.2. The Council last fixed taxi fares on 20 June 2023.
- 3.3. The Council has since its inception in 1996 adopted an approach to fixing taxi fares across four zones being Clydesdale, East Kilbride, Hamilton and Rutherglen/Cambuslang. This approach reflected the different arrangements within predecessor authorities and mirrors the areas by the 4 Licensing Boards.
- 3.4. In the usual way, the initial requirement of this review is for the Council, as Licensing Authority, to consult with persons or organisations appearing to them to be, or be representative of, the operators of taxis within their Council area.

#### **4. Present Position**

- 4.1. All 39 Cambuslang and Rutherglen operators were written to and responses were received from 2 operators. 1 indicated that they would like the meter to start at £4.30 instead of £3.90 and the running mile of £1.20 increased to £1.60. The other operator responded asking for an increase, however, did not give an indication as to what that should be. No other responses were received. Given the limited response, it is therefore proposed that the fares tariff remains as at present, as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 4.2. All 93 Clydesdale operators were written to with responses being received from 2 operators who hold 59 licences between them indicating no fares increase is requested. It is therefore proposed that the fares tariff remains as at present, as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 4.3. The East Kilbride taxi trade organisation has indicated that no fares increase is requested. It is therefore proposed that the fares tariff remains as at present, as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 4.4. All 132 Hamilton operators were written to with 16 operators and Hamilton Taxi Operators Association (TOA) responding as follows:-
  - ◆ first 880 yards not exceeding £3.80, for each additional 176 yards 20 pence (Average two mile hire £6.80), waiting and stoppage time increased to 25 pence per minute (£15 per hour)
  - ◆ 40 pence on the flag fall
  - ◆ flag fall of £3.60 same running mile, Christmas Eve tariff to start at 8.00pm and for it to go from one third of the meter to one half of the meter through to 12 midnight on 26 December
  - ◆ requested an increase but has not indicated what that increase should be
  - ◆ flag fall of £4.20 and surcharges increased from one third to meter plus one half, cost of the running mile is £1.40 per mile and is currently higher than all local private hire companies so it may be unwise to increase this at that time
  - ◆ one respondent raised the issue of increased running costs eg insurance and vehicle repairs and servicing and was of the view that taxi fares were less in Hamilton than in other areas. They indicated that they would like the cost of the flag fall to increase to £3.50 with the overall cost of the first mile to increase to £5.00
  - ◆ 40 pence on the flag fall, channel 3 from 10.00pm till 5.00am, keep channel 3 meter and a third on 24 and 31 December but meter and a half on 25 and 26 December and 1 and 2 January
  - ◆ increase starting fare from £3.20 to £3.50 and carried forward onto fare after 10.00pm
  - ◆ increase flag fall from £3.20 to £3.60
  - ◆ increase flag fall from £3.20 to £3.80 because of the price of fuel and service costs. Christmas tariff increased to meter and a half as most private hire companies are double fare to make it worthwhile coming out to work
  - ◆ an operator who holds 10 taxi licences requests flag fall increase from £3.20 to £3.60 from 5.00am till 10.00pm. From 10.00pm till 5.00am would be same £4.40
  - ◆ Hamilton TOA requested not exceeding 880 yards rising from £3.20 (change to £3.60 from 5.00am to 6.00pm), not exceeding 880 yards £4.40 from 6.00pm to 12 midnight), not exceeding 880 yards from £5.86 from 12 midnight to 5.00am), a surcharge of one half of the normal metered fare may be charged for each hire from 6.00am on 24 December until 5.00am on 27 December and from 6.00am on 31 December until 12 midnight on 2 January
  - ◆ 5 operators have indicated that no fares increase is requested

12 operators who responded seeking an increase have one taxi each, 1 operator holds 10 taxi licences and Hamilton TOA represent a number of operators.

The proposals are as per Appendix 2.

Officers took all of the above responses into account and drafted the proposal set out at Appendix 2, as being a reasonable representation of the views received.

- 4.5. As members will be aware, even if there is no increase in the fares tariff, the formal review procedures still require to be undertaken.

**5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. None.

**6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. None.

**7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 7.1. No assessment of the impact on the environment has been made as the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (as amended) does not allow us to take this into account when determining the fares review.

- 7.2. There are no apparent implications in terms of sustainability.

**8. Other Implications**

- 8.1. If the fares review is not progressed the Council will be in breach of a statutory duty.

**9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 9.1. There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.

- 9.2. Consultation with the taxi trade has been carried out to ascertain views on whether or not there should be an increase in taxi fares this year. This has informed this report, and the proposals for the next stage of the review process.

**Jackie Taylor**

**Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)**

8 April 2024

**Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes**

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs

**Previous References**

- ◆ None

**List of Background Papers**

- ◆ None

**Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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## Current Fares Tariffs

Cambuslang and Rutherglen Zone
Not exceeding 880 yards £3.90 For the next NINE additional 293 yards or any part 30 pence thereafter each additional 264 yards or any part 20 pence (initial average 2 mile hire of £6.60)

Clydesdale Zone
Not exceeding one mile £3.50 For each additional 88 yards or any part thereof 13 pence (An average 2 mile hire of £6.10)

East Kilbride Zone
Not exceeding 880 yards £3.60 For the next six additional 146 yards or any part £0.20 For the next six additional 295 yards or any part £0.30 thereafter each additional 246 yards or any part £0.20 (an average 2 mile hire of £6.80)

**Current Fares Tariff showing proposals  
(Hamilton Zone)**

**Exclusive Hire** means that a single fare is payable by any one passenger for the exclusive hire of a taxi or private hire car, whether or not more than one passenger is carried.  
8%

**HIRE of Taxi/Private Hire Car** (fitted with a taxi meter) –

Not exceeding **880 yards £3.20 (Propose £3.80)**

For each additional **220 yards or any part thereof 20 pence**

(an average 2 mile hire of £5.60) **(an average 2 mile hire of £6.20) (10.7% increase over a 2 mile hire)**

**BEYOND THE AREA OF HAMILTON ZONE** - subject to special agreement in advance with the hirer.

**WAITING TIME** – **25p** for each period of **1 minute** or part thereof **£15 per hour**

**STOPPAGE(S) AT REQUEST OF HIRER** – **20p** for each period of **1 minute** or part thereof **(£12 per hour)**

**FARES BY TIME** - subject to special agreement in advance with the hirer.

**NO FARE CHARGEABLE** - for vacant return journey of taxi/private hire car from destination of hirer.

**SOILAGE CHARGE** - the hirer will pay a soilage charge of **£40** if the vehicle is soiled due to sickness caused by alcohol or drugs, any take-away spillage or any other fouling of the vehicle. It shall not be charged if the vehicle is soiled either due to a child being sick or due to genuine illness.

**SURCHARGES**

(1) a surcharge of **£1.20** may be charged for each hire begun between the hours of **10pm and 5 am (Propose £1.30). (8% increase on surcharge)**

(2) a surcharge of **1/3<sup>rd</sup> (Propose 1/2)** of the normal metered fare may be charged for each hire **from 6am on 24<sup>th</sup> December until 5am on 27<sup>th</sup> December and from 6am on 31<sup>st</sup> December until 12 midnight on 2<sup>nd</sup> January.**

(3) a surcharge, to be specially agreed in advance with the hirer, may be charged **for 5 or more passengers hiring a people carrier type car.**