

Report

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Report to:	Licensing Committee
Date of Meeting:	12 May 2010
Report by:	Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 Licensing of Taxis – Review of Taxi Fares
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1 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ progress the fares review process in the Clydesdale, Hamilton, East Kilbride and Rutherglen and Cambuslang zones of South Lanarkshire.

2 Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the taxi fares review process be progressed in the Hamilton and East Kilbride zones;
- (2) that the Licensing and Registration Manager, in consultation with the Chair and Depute of the Licensing Committee, be authorised to progress the fares review in line with the proposals detailed in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.3; and;
- (3) that, in the event of objections being received to the fares review in the course of the consultation process, the matter be referred to Committee for decision.

3 Background

3.1 In terms of Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the Council must review taxi fares every 18 months. The previous review took effect from the end of 2008.

4. Present Position

4.1 In previous years, the fares increase was based on a previously agreed formula. However, this formula was criticised by the Traffic Commissioner dealing with the appeal against the proposals for the 2008 review lodged by representatives from the trade in the Hamilton and the Rutherglen and Cambuslang zones.

4.2 For this review, the views of the trade were invited on what, if any, increase in fares tariff there should be on the basis that an in depth review of the formula would be conducted in time for the 2011/2012 fares review. The position regarding responses received is presented below.

4.3 Hamilton Zone

4.3.1 Hamilton Taxi Owners' Association asked for a 10% increase on the fares tariff. If implemented, this would result in the cost of the 2 mile hire increasing from £4 to £4.40. The Hamilton zone trade has not had a fares increase since March 2007.

Even if the increase is agreed, the Hamilton zone fares tariff will be less than that of both the East Kilbride and Clydesdale zones. The proposal is as shown on the attached Schedule.

4.4 East Kilbride Zone

- 4.4.1. Despite the comments made by the Traffic Commissioner, the trade in East Kilbride requested that the previously established formula continue to be used. On that basis, the proposed increase would have been £1. However, the trade has indicated that it would only wish an increase of 20p. The way in which this is to be shown on the fares card has still to be agreed, subject to Committee approving the proposed increase.

4.5 Clydesdale Zone

- 4.5.1 Within the Clydesdale zone, only three operators have requested a fares increase. The rest have either responded 'no' to an increase or not responded at all. The three operators who requested an increase hold 19 operators' licences between them which is less than 30% of the total number of licences. Their proposals were to increase the 2 mile hire to £5.50 (an increase of 50p) and to abolish the one mile minimum fare.

4.6 Rutherglen and Cambuslang Zones

- 4.6.1 Within the Rutherglen and Cambuslang zone, only nine operators have responded to the consultation to the effect that they do not wish an increase in the fares tariff.

5. Proposals

5.1 Hamilton Zone

If there are no objections to the proposed fares increase in Hamilton, it is proposed that this be agreed as per attached schedule and that authority be given to implement this as soon as possible.

5.2 East Kilbride Zone

If there are no objections to the proposed fares increase in the East Kilbride zone, it is proposed that, subject to how the increase is to be shown on the fares card being agreed, authority be given to progress the fares review.

5.3 Clydesdale and Rutherglen and Cambuslang Zones

It is proposed that there be no change to the current fares tariff in the Clydesdale and Rutherglen and Cambuslang zones and that adverts be placed in the local press advertising the draft fares card. If there are no objections, authority is requested to implement the fares review as soon as possible.

6 Employee Implications

- 6.1 None.

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 None.

8 Other Implications

- 8.1 None.

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 was initially carried out to ascertain the current running mile costs. Further consultation took place regarding the actual amount of increase sought.

Robert McIlwain
Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

23 April 2010

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- ◆ Improve Community Safety

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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**Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982
Licensing of Taxis
Fares Review 2010**

Zone	Proposed Change	Trades Position
Hamilton	<p>An increase in the 2 mile hire from £4.00 to £4.40 (last increased in March 2007)</p> <p>Shown on the fares card as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not exceeding 880 yards £2.00 (no change) - For each additional 220 yards or any part thereof 20 pence (an average 2 mile hire of £4.40) 	As proposed
East Kilbride	<p>An increase in the 2 mile hire from £5.00 to £5.20 (last increased in October 2008)</p>	As proposed
Rutherglen and Cambuslang	No change	Only nine operators responded no increase – no response from remaining 31
Clydesdale	No change	Three operators requested fares review an increase of 50 pence. Other operators, no response