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| Report to: | Licensing Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 22 February 2022 |
| Report by: | Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) |

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| Subject: | Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (As Amended) - 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 in the Clydesdale, East Kilbride, Hamilton and Cambuslang and Rutherglen zones of South Lanarkshire

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the review procedure for the Cambuslang and Rutherglen and Hamilton zones be commenced on the basis that there should be no increase in the current fares tariff and the tariff should remain unchanged;
- (2) that the review procedure for the Clydesdale zone be further progressed with an increase of 60 pence over a two mile hire and various other increases as detailed at Appendix 2; and
- (3) that the review procedure for the East Kilbride zone be further progressed with an increase of 40 pence over a two mile hire and various other increases as detailed at Appendix 3.

3. Background

- 3.1. In terms of Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (as amended) by Section 174 of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 Licensing Authorities must review taxi fares in their area every 18 months.
- 3.2. At its meeting held on 27 June 2013, the Licensing Committee agreed to calculate all future increases based on an agreed formula.
- 3.3. The application of this formula would indicate an increase of 3.86% for the year from December 2020 to November 2021 inclusive.

4. Present Position

- 4.1. All Cambuslang and Rutherglen operators were written to although only two operators responded. One operator indicated that he felt an increase was necessary having regard to increasing costs. He indicated that he would consult further with colleagues and provide detail as to the level of increase requested however no further information has been received. The other operator has requested an increase but has not indicated what that increase should be. No other responses were received. The fares tariff would therefore remain as per Appendix 1.

- 4.2. All Hamilton operators were written to although only five operators responded. One operator has requested an additional 20 pence be added to the running mile, one operator has requested an increase but has not indicated what that increase should be and the other 3 operators have indicated that no fares increase is requested. The fares tariff would therefore remain as per Appendix 1.
- 4.3. All Clydesdale operators were written to with a response being received from one operator who holds 42 of the current 86 taxi licences indicating that he would like an increase on various items on the fares tariff as detailed in Appendix 2. These items have not increased since at least 2007, with the exception of the initial charges which make up the cost of the two mile hire, which last increased in April 2020.
- 4.4. The East Kilbride taxi trade organisation has indicated that the trade would like an increase on various items on the fares tariff as detailed in Appendix 3. The majority of items have not changed since at least 2008, with the exception of the following, which were increased in January 2012:
- (i) Called but not used – increased from £2.50 to £2.80
 - (ii) A surcharge of 60 pence may be charged for each hire begun between the hours of 10.00pm and 5.00am – the following was added – A further surcharge of 20 pence may be charged for each hire begun between the hours of 10.00pm and 5.00am each Friday into Saturday and Saturday into Sunday.

The last increase in the initial charges which make up the cost of the two mile hire was in September 2018.

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

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 application.

- 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 they are seeking an increase in taxi fares this year.

Paul Manning
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

2 February 2022

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Make communities safer, stronger and sustainable

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 |
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| not exceeding 880 yards £2.90 |
| for the next NINE additional 293 yards or any part 30 pence |
| thereafter each additional 264 yards or any part 20 pence |
| (an average 2 mile hire of £5.60) |

| Hamilton Zone |
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| not exceeding 880 yards £2.80 |
| each additional 220 yards or any part 20 pence |
| (an average 2 mile hire of £5.20) |

Current Fares Tariff showing proposals (Clydesdale 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.

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

Not exceeding **one mile** £3.30 (Propose £3.50)

For EACH additional **88 yards or any part thereof** 10 pence (Propose 12 pence)

(An average 2 mile hire of £5.30 (Propose £5.90))

WAITING TIME – 20 pence (Propose 30 pence) for each period of **one minute** or part thereof £12 per hour (Propose £18)

SOILAGE CHARGE - the hirer will pay a soilage charge of **£30** (Propose **£50**) 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.

CALLED BUT NOT USED CHARGE -when a taxi is called out but not used, **a charge not exceeding the fare which would have been payable** by the hirer in the event of the taxi being used, shall be payable.

CALL OUT CHARGE - for hirings where a taxi is called to hirer's home or other address a call out charge up to **a maximum of £5** (Propose **£10**) is payable. If such a call out charge is to be levied, the driver/operator must obtain the hirer's agreement in advance.

SURCHARGES

- (1) A surcharge of **1/3rd of the normal metered fare** may be charged for each hire begun between **midnight and 7am**.
- (2) A surcharge of **½ of the normal metered fare** may be charged for each hire on **25th December, 26th December, 1st January and 2nd January**.
- (3) A surcharge of **10 pence** (Propose **25 pence**) may be charged **for each passenger beyond 2**.

We would also like to see that using the modern metres a hire that begins at 11:50pm should start off at the daytime rate and when the time passes 12 midnight the metre should automatically change over to the night-time rate (this would prevent drivers delaying pick up time until after 12 midnight) conversely a hire that begins before 7am the rate should take into account the night time rate and automatically change over to the daytime rate when 7am is reached.

**Current Fares Tariff showing proposals
(East Kilbride 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.

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

Current: not exceeding 880 yards £2.90
for the next NINE additional 293 yards or any part 30 pence
thereafter each additional 264 yards or any part 20 pence
(an average 2 mile hire of £5.60)

Proposed: Not exceeding 880 yards £3.20
For the next FOURTEEN additional 189 yards or any part £0.20
thereafter each additional 246 yards or any part £0.20
(an average 2 mile hire of £6.00)

BEYOND THE AREA OF EAST KILBRIDE ZONE – may be subject to surcharge of 1/3rd of the normal metered fare.

WAITING TIME – 20 pence (**Propose 25 pence**) for each period of **60 seconds** or part thereof **£12 per hour** (**Propose £15 per hour**)

STOPPAGE(S) AT THE REQUEST OF HIRER – 20 pence for each period of **60 seconds** or part thereof (**£12 per hour**).

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

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

SOILAGE CHARGE - the hirer will pay a soilage charge of **£30** 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.

CALLED BUT NOT USED – when a hired car is called but not used - **£2.80**

SURCHARGES

- (1) a surcharge of **60 pence** (**Propose 80 pence**) may be charged for each hire begun between the hours of **10pm and 5am**. A further surcharge of **20 pence** (**Propose 40 pence**) may be charged for each hire begun between the hours of 10pm and 5am each Friday into Saturday and Saturday into Sunday.
- (2) a surcharge of **1/3rd of the normal metered fare** may be charged for each hire **from 6am on 24th December until 5am on 27th December and from 6am on 31st December until midnight on 2nd 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**.