

ANGUS COUNCIL
CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE - 9 NOVEMBER 2023
TAXI FARE REVIEW
REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE AND CHANGE

ABSTRACT

This Report relates to the current review of the taxi fare structure for Angus.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee: -

- (i) Considers the taxi fare review representations, received in response to the initial consultation which ended 23 October 2023, contained in Appendix 1 to this report and the table of related calculations contained in Appendix 2;
- (ii) proposes new fare scales, whether these are unchanged from the existing fare scales, are scales set out within Appendix 1, or alternative options;
- (iii) instructs the Director of Legal, Governance and Change to advertise the new proposed scales; and
- (iv) delegates authority to the Director of Legal, Governance and Change, in the event that no adverse representations are received, in consultation with Police Scotland, to implement the proposed scales, as soon as possible within one month of the date of advertising of the new proposed scales.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In terms of section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the licensing authority must fix scales for the fares and other charges in connection with the hire or with the arrangements for the hire of a taxi, within 18 months, beginning on the date on which the scales came into effect. The current scales came into effect on 30 September 2022.
- 2.2. At its meeting on 14 September 2023, the Committee agreed to initiate a review of the current scales and agreed to consult with operators in this regard. All taxi operators licensed in Angus were therefore written to either by email or by post and their proposals for any changes were requested no later than 23 October 2023.
- 2.3. During the consultation period eight separate responses were received. Three of the responses suggest changes to the current fares, others include suggestions to maintain the status quo. Of the responses proposing no change, two responses were from one individual and their business; and one response is on behalf of the sender and 4 other named individuals, who have confirmed this as their representation. One of the 4 has also submitted a separate response on their own behalf. Reasons cited for no change to the current fares include, or allude to, adverse effects anticipated on business by increasing fares, the 'cost of living crisis' and decreased fuel prices since the previous fare increase. All suggestions and comments received are shown at Appendix 1, together with the current fare structure.

- 2.4 For ease of reference, the suggested fare changes are set out in a table at Appendix 2. The table shows the current fares and what the suggested fares would be for journeys of 1 mile, 3 miles, 5 miles, 10 miles and 15 miles respectively. The fares are calculated to the nearest penny. The table compares the suggested fares with the current fare for the equivalent journey. These are shown as a percentage calculated to the nearest whole figure, or half percent where there is a difference which is less than 1% in total.
- 2.5 Having considered the representations received and relevant evidence, it is open to the Committee to propose such fare scales as they consider appropriate, whether these are in line with an option suggested within Appendix 2 or otherwise.
- 2.6 Once the Committee propose scales, these will be published in the “Courier”. In publishing proposed scales, the Council must: -
- (i) set out the proposed scales;
 - (ii) explain the effect of the proposed scales;
 - (iii) propose a date on which the proposed scales are to come into effect; and
 - (iv) state that any person may make representations in writing until the relevant date
- The relevant date is a date specified by the licensing authority falling at least one month after the first publication by the authority of the proposed scales.
- 2.7 In the event that, following publication of the proposed scales, no adverse representations are received within the period for representations to be made, then authority is sought to permit the Director of Legal, Governance and Change to implement the scales in consultation with Police Scotland.
- 2.8 In the event that adverse representations to the proposed scales are received then a further report will be submitted to this Committee to consider those representations.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no financial implications to Angus Council arising from this report. If the scales are changed requiring meter recalibration there will be an associated cost to taxi operators.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this Report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment is not required.

NOTE: Background papers

1. Minute 17 September 2023 initiating Taxi Fare Review Consultation

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List of Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Response Proposals and comments
- Appendix 2 Fare Scales Table