

ANGUS COUNCIL

CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE – 13 FEBRUARY 2025

TAXI FARES REVIEW

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE AND CHANGE

1. ABSTRACT

The purpose of the Report is to advise Committee of the legal requirements on licensing authorities in respect of the fixing of scales for the fares and other charges in connection with the hire or with the arrangements for the hire of a taxi in terms of Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and to seek consent to commence the review process in respect of those fares and other charges.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

This proposal aligns to the following Council Plan Priorities:

Caring for our Economy –

Support Angus to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Encourage and invest in fair work opportunities for those that live, work and study in Angus.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee: -

- (i) notes the legal requirements on licensing authorities in respect of the fixing of scales for the fares and other charges in connection with the hire or with the arrangements for the hire of a taxi in terms of Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982;
- (ii) notes the process of reviewing the fares and other charges in connection with the hire or with the arrangements for the hire of a taxi; and
- (iii) determines to commence the process of reviewing the fares and other charges in connection with the hire or with the arrangements for the hire of a taxi.

4. BACKGROUND

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 with the date on which the scales came into effect.

The last review of taxi fares and other charges was commenced by this Committee at its meeting on 14 September 2023 (Report 246/23). Following a period of consultation a report setting out the outcome of the consultation was considered by this Committee at a special meeting on 5 December 2023 (Report 335/23). The Committee determined to propose new scales of fares and charges as required by statute these proposals were advertised. No adverse representations were received in response and the new fares and charges were implemented by the Director of Legal, Governance and Change, under delegated authority which had been agreed by the Committee as the 1 March 2024.

5. CURRENT POSITION

The current scales of taxi fares and charges, which came into effect on 1 March 2024 and now require to be reviewed, are detailed in Appendix 1. In accordance with the statutory 18-month timescale, the new scales therefore must be fixed by 1 September 2025.

6. PROPOSALS

6.1 If the Committee is minded to agree to review the fares and other charges then: -

- (a) All taxi operators licensed in Angus will be consulted in writing on the review by email and/ or post. It is proposed that they will be given one calendar month to respond. It is also proposed to make use of the “Engage Angus” platform in addition to messages being placed on Angus Council’s Facebook page and X (formerly Twitter) feed.
- (b) A further report will be submitted to this Committee advising of the outcome of the consultation and seeking the Committee’s proposed scales of fares and charges.
- (c) The Committee’s proposed scales will thereafter require to be published in a newspaper circulating in this area setting out proposed scales, explaining the effect of the proposed scales and proposing a date on which the proposed scales are to come into effect. Any person may make representations in writing until the date specified by the licensing authority for doing so, falling at least one month after the first publication by the authority of the proposed scales.

It is also proposed to make use of the “Engage Angus” platform in addition to messages being placed on Angus Council’s Facebook page and X (formerly Twitter) feed during this part of the process.

- (d) In the event that, following publication of the proposed scales, no adverse representations are received by the relevant date, if the Committee are minded to delegate authority for the purpose, the Director of Legal, Governance and Change may implement the proposed scales, as required.
- (e) In the event that adverse representations are received on the proposed scales, a further report will be submitted to this Committee to consider those representations.

6.2 The Committee is asked to note that the final decision taken by the Committee regarding scales will be intimated to taxi operators who will be afforded the opportunity to appeal the decision to the Traffic Commissioner for the Scottish Traffic Area.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

There are no direct risk implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

10. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

A screening assessment has been undertaken and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required for the following reason(s): - this is a technical report.

11. CHILDREN’S RIGHTS AND WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Screening Assessment has been undertaken and a full assessment is not required as the “General Principles” do not apply to this proposal.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1: Current scales of taxi fares and charges

**CURRENT SCALES OF TAXI FARES AND CHARGES
ANGUS COUNCIL – 1 MARCH 2024**

TARIFF ONE	<p>Hirings begun between 6am and 6pm Monday to Friday inclusive (except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Hogmanay, New Year's Day and 2nd January).</p> <p>(a) If the distance does not exceed 1660 yards - for the whole distance - £4.20</p> <p>(b) If the distance exceeds 1660 yards:</p> <p>(1) For the first 1660 yards - £4.20</p> <p>(2) For each additional 75 yards or uncompleted part thereof - 10p</p> <p>(c) Waiting time - for each period of 15 seconds - 10p</p>
TARIFF TWO	<p>Hirings begun between 6pm and 6am Monday to Friday and from 6pm Friday until 6am Monday (except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Hogmanay, New Year's Day and 2nd January) This tariff is also applicable for hirings commenced between 6am and 6pm on Christmas Eve and Hogmanay.</p> <p>(a) If the distance does not exceed 1260 yards - for the whole distance - £4.70</p> <p>(b) If the distance exceeds 1260 yards:</p> <p>(1) For the first 1260 yards - £4.70</p> <p>(2) For each additional 67 yards or uncompleted part thereof - 10p</p> <p>(c) Waiting time - for each period of 15 seconds - 10p</p>
TARIFF THREE	<p>Hirings begun between 6pm on Christmas Eve through to 6am on 27th December and 6pm on Hogmanay through to 6am on 3rd January</p> <p>(a) If the distance does not exceed 1320 yards - for the whole distance - £6.20</p> <p>(b) If the distance exceeds 1320 yards:</p> <p>(1) For the first 1320 yards - £6.20</p> <p>(2) For each additional 60 yards or uncompleted part thereof - 10p</p> <p>(c) Waiting time - for each period of 10 seconds - 10p</p>
TARIFF FOUR	<p>(Only for larger type vehicles carrying five or more passengers at their own request) for hirings begun between 6pm on Christmas Eve through to 6am on 27th December and 6pm on Hogmanay through to 6am on 3rd January</p> <p>(a) If the distance does not exceed 1320 yards - for the whole distance - £7.60</p> <p>(b) If the distance exceeds 1320 yards:</p> <p>(1) For the first 1320 yards - £7.60</p> <p>(2) For each additional 60 yards or uncompleted part thereof - 20p</p> <p>(c) Waiting time - for each period of 13 seconds - 20p</p>

B - LARGE MINI-BUS TYPE VEHICLES

(Carrying five or more passengers together at their own request)

<p>(a) Where Tariff 1 would apply – charge Tariff 2</p> <p>(b) Where Tariff 2 would apply – charge Tariff 3</p> <p>(c) Where Tariff 3 would apply – charge Tariff 4</p>

C - ADDITIONAL CHARGES

<p>1. £60 to be levied in respect of passenger soiling a vehicle which results in the vehicle being taken out of service for any period of time.</p> <p>2. Where a taxi is called but not used - normal fare to be charged according to distance as if the taxi had been occupied from the time it left the stance or garage.</p>
