

REPORT TO: Licensing Sub-Committee

MEETING DATE: 12 June 2014

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

SUBJECT: Taxi Fare Review

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To (1) advise the Licensing Sub Committee on the outcome of the newspaper advertisement of the scale of taxi fares and charges proposed by the East Lothian Taxi & Private Hire Association and (2) to advertise the approved scales in the local newspaper.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To consider the advertised scale of Taxi fares and charges and if approved to fix same
- 2.2 To note that the scale of the taxi fares and charges, as may be fixed by the Licensing Authority is to be given to the East Lothian Taxi & Private Hire Association (by virtue of Section 17 (4) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.
- 2.3 To approve that the new rates become operative in August 2014
- 2.4 Approval to advertise the approved scales in the local newspaper

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following the decision of the Licensing Sub-Committee on 13 February 2014, the Licensing Authority advertised the scale of taxi fares and charges (as proposed by the East Lothian Taxi & Private Hire Association). The advert was placed in the East Lothian Courier, dated 28 March 2014. Any representations were due on the 28 April 2014. No representations were received.
- 3.2 The Licensing Sub Committee is now in a position to fix the scale of Taxi Fares and Charges, given that no representations were received. Following the fixing of the new scale of taxi fares and charges, the Licensing authority are required to give notice to the East Lothian Taxi

Private Hire Association (by virtue of Section 17 (4) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

- 3.3 Section 18(1) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 provides that any person who operates a taxi for which scales have been fixed, may appeal these scales to the traffic commissioner within 14 days, If an appeal is lodged, the introduction of the new fee tariff is suspended until the traffic commissioner has issued his decision.
- 3.4 Given the requirement to notify, allow time for appeals, notify the local newspaper and to recalibrate the taxi meters to the new rates, it is suggested that the new rates become operative in August 2014.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None. In fixing a scale of fares and other charges, the Licensing Authority is complying with a statutory duty.

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – None
- 6.2 Personnel - None
- 6.3 Other - None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None

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