

REPORT TO: Licensing Sub-Committee

MEETING DATE: 10 January 2019

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

SUBJECT: Taxi Fare Review

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To allow the Licensing Sub-Committee to consider the revised scale of the fares or other charges proposed by the East Lothian Taxi and Private Hire Association.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To consider the revised scale of the fares or other charges proposed by the East Lothian Taxi and Private Hire Operators (Appendix 1) and to approve or amend that proposal as the Licensing Sub-Committee considers appropriate.
- 2.2 To decide a date on which any changes will come into effect
- 2.3 To authorise officers to advertise and explain the effect of the proposals and invite representations from the public.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 There is a statutory requirement for the Council to review taxi fares at least once every 18 months. The last review took place in October 2017, (Appendix 2 – existing tariff), meaning that the next review has to be in place no later than April 2019 in order to comply with the statutory timescales.
- 3.2 Proposals were received from the Taxi Operators after consultation with them.
- 3.3 As part of the review of taxi fares, the Licensing Team has also consulted with other Licensing Authorities (Appendix 3), namely, West Lothian, Midlothian, City of Edinburgh and Scottish Borders about their current scale of fares and other charges.

3.4 Before any new scale of Fares and other Charges can come into force the Council must advertise any new proposed scale in the local press to give an opportunity for public representations.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial – None

6.2 Personnel - None

6.3 Other – None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Current schedule of taxi fares, November 2015

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| AUTHOR'S NAME | Ian Forrest |
| DESIGNATION | Senior Solicitor – Legal & Procurement |
| CONTACT INFO | 01620 827389 iforrest@eastlothian.gov.uk John Muir House, Haddington |
| DATE | 3rd January 2019 |

Appendix 1

**Revised scale of the fares or other charges proposed by the East Lothian
Taxi Operators.**

Winter, Maree

From: AC's Taxis <acstaxis@hotmail.com>
Sent: 14 November 2018 16:57
To: Licensing; Kelley, Alan
Subject: FW: EAST LOTHIAN TAXI FARE REVIEW

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Marie / Alan,

Please see below, my proposal for the fare increase. I have forwarded this to operators to have their view and everyone who got back in touch was in agreement with this suggestion. Below is a list of taxi operators in which have agreed,

William Moore
Yvette Moore
Avril Campbell
Paul Williams
George Ross
Craig Fordyce
Philip Bell
Bryan (Premier Travel)
Peter (Colins Cabs)
Ian Torrance
John Sands

Can you consider this email as our representation to the committee,

Kind Regards,
Robert Campbell
ACs Taxis

From: AC's Taxis
Sent: Friday, November 9, 2018 1:41:30 PM
To: craigscabs@yahoo.com; Philip Bell; 'Work'; 'jimrobertson6000@aol.com'; johnnys.cabs; 'Liam'; taxiandhutch@hotmail.com; torrancetaxis@hotmail.com; 'akbservices@aol.com'
Subject: EAST LOTHIAN TAXI FARE REVIEW

To all operators,

Following up on the recent letter sent out to all taxi operator, I think it would be good if all operators can agree on a reasonable, justified increase in fares to present to licensing. Its not going to look great if they receive 20 suggestions from 20 different operators. Although, there in no Taxi Association (unless someone want's to take this responsibility on), we still need to look after the industry we work and be taken seriously when it comes to making decisions on our trade.

I'll kick it off, and If anyone disagrees or want to add to the structure of any of the tariff's, feel free to add to it,

Reasoning for the Increase

24% Increase in Fuel costs, on average over the past 2 years
53% Increase in Driver Licensing
31% Increase in Operator Licensing
70% Increase in Re – Test Fees

Furthermore, the uncertainty of decisions likely to be made by either Scottish Government or our local authority on vehicle types (e.g. custom built, Euro 5, Euro 6) and future proof our tariff to allow investment on new electric vehicles, making best use of the incentives now readily available to operators trading in Scotland.

Increase

Tariff 1 06:00 until 18:00

£3.00 for the initial yardage, with no change at the drop off the flag

£0.20 per 146.5 yards, increasing the fares from £2.28 per mile to £2.40 per mile

On Average, a taxi that would cover 30,000 per year based on 15,000 miles being paid would earn £1800,00 more per year.

Tariff 2 18:00 until 06:00

£4.00 at the drop off the flag

£0.20 per 145.5 yards, increasing the fares from £2.28 per mile to £2.40 per mile.

Increase on Tariff 2 to from £3.00 to £4.00 at the drop off the flag to difference day and night workers

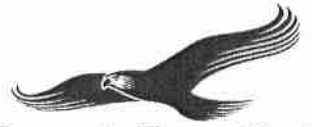
Tariff 3 18:00 24/12 – 06:00 27/12 & 18:00 31/12 – 03/01

£5.00 at the drop off the flag,

£0.40 per 146.5 yards

If there is any operator not cc'd into this email, feel free to forward it on, the proposal is due on or before the 19th of November.

Robert
ACs Taxis



East Lothian
Council

Appendix 2

Existing Fare Tariff



CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982, Section 18

**EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL
CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982
TAXI FARE REVIEW**

Notice is hereby given that East Lothian Council has reviewed the taxi fare scales (as undernoted) applicable in East Lothian for a period of 18 months.

The new taxi fare scales shall become effective on Saturday 7th October 2017.

The Taxi Fare Table can also be viewed on East Lothian Council's Website
www.eastlothian.gov.uk

Service Manager
Licensing, Administration & Democratic Services
John Muir House
Haddington
Email: licensing@eastlothian.gov.uk

20th July 2017

FARE TABLE FOR TAXI CABS

| For 1 to 8 Passengers | TARIFF 1 6am – 6am | TARIFF 2 1. 6pm on 24 th December until 6am on 27 th December 2. 6pm on 31 st December until 6am on 2 nd January |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| 1. For the initial period of waiting and 2. For the initial hire not exceeding 713.70 yards | £3.00 | £5.00 |
| 1. For each additional 40 seconds of waiting time 2. For every additional 153.90 yards 3. Or a combination of 1 and 2 above | 20p | 40p |

EXTRA PAYMENTS

- Car valeting charge for customer misuse - £100

NOTES

- The above fares are applicable only within East Lothian

Appendix 3

Consultations with other Licensing Authorities namely, West Lothian, Midlothian, City of Edinburgh and Scottish Borders about their current scale of fares and other charges.



FARE TABLE FOR TAXI AND METERED PRIVATE HIRE CARS

OPERATIVE FROM 5 OCTOBER 2017

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Tariff 1 - Monday - Friday 6am - 6pm for up to 2 passengers</p> <p>For</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the initial hire not exceeding 190 yards; • the initial period of waiting time of 43 seconds; or • a combination of time and distance as above <p style="margin-left: 20px;">£2.60</p> <p>For</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • each additional 225 yards or part thereof; • each additional period of waiting time of 43 seconds or part thereof; or • a combination of additional time and distance <p style="margin-left: 20px;">20p</p> | <p>Tariff 2 - Monday - Thursday 6pm - 6am and at weekends from 6pm on Friday - Monday 6am for up to 2 passengers</p> <p>For</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the initial hire not exceeding 190 yards; • the initial period of waiting time of 43 seconds; or • a combination of time and distance as above <p style="margin-left: 20px;">£3.00</p> <p>For</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • each additional 225 yards or part thereof; • each additional period of waiting time of 43 seconds or part thereof; or • a combination of additional time and distance <p style="margin-left: 20px;">20p</p> |
| <p>Tariff 3 - Christmas and New Year for up to 2 passengers</p> <p>Hires commencing at 10pm on 24 December until 5am on 27 December and between 10pm on 31 December and 6am on 2 January in any year</p> <p>For</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the initial hire not exceeding 190 yards; • the initial period of waiting time of 43 seconds; or • a combination of time and distance as above <p style="margin-left: 20px;">£3.90</p> <p>For</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • each additional 225 yards or part thereof; • each additional period of waiting time of 43 seconds or part thereof; or • a combination of additional time and distance <p style="margin-left: 20px;">30p</p> | <p>Additional Charges</p> <p>Where more than 2 passengers: Per extra adult passenger (over 12 years): 40p Per extra child passenger (over 5 years and under 12 years): 20p Per extra infant passenger (0 - 5 years): no extra charge Note: each passenger must be properly seated (including children and infants)</p> <p>Luggage For every piece of luggage carried (subject to a maximum charge of 40p per hire): 20p For each piece of luggage or additional item carried requiring the assistance of the driver, or which cannot reasonably be lifted by one person: a charge of £5 (amount to be agreed before journey commences) Soiling Charge: £40.00 Cancellation Fee i.e. taxi or metered private hire car booked but not used: £2.60 Engagement Fee i.e. where taxi or metered private hire car booked by telephone or booked in advance: 60p per hire</p> |

1. The above fares are the maximum metered fares which can be charged for hires wholly within the West Lothian District.

2. Any hire which starts or terminates outwith the West Lothian District — fares must be agreed before the journey commences. It can be agreed that this fare table will be used.

A copy of the conditions attached to a taxi or private hire car licence issued by West Lothian Council may be inspected at West Lothian Council, West Lothian Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston or viewed on the taxi licensing pages of the council's website www.westlothian.gov.uk

Approved by West Lothian Council on 19 September 2017

APPENDIX II

CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982

FARE TARIFF WITH EFFECT FROM 5 FEBRUARY 2016

Taxi and Private Hire Cars Fares

| For 1 or 2 passengers | Tariff 1 | Tariff 2 | Tariff 3 | Tariff 4 |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| For the initial hire not exceeding 339m For the initial period of waiting time of 60 seconds For a combination of time and distance | £2.80 | £3.20 | £3.80 | £4.00 |
| For each additional 168.3m For each additional 30 seconds of waiting time For a combination of additional time and distance | £0.20 | £0.20 | £0.35 | £0.35 |

| Monday to Friday | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Tariff 1 – Monday – Friday 6am – 6pm | Tariff 2 – 6pm to 6am and, at weekends, from 6am on Saturday to 6am Monday |

| Christmas and New Year – Between 6pm on 24 December and 6am on 27 December and 6pm on 31 December and 6am on 3 January | |
|--|---|
| Tariff 3 – Monday – Friday 6am – 6pm | Tariff 4 – 6pm to 6am and, at weekends, from 6am on Saturday to 6am on Monday |

Only 2 children under 12 years will be reckoned as one passenger. No extra fare will be charged for one child under 5 years. Each passenger must be properly seated.

| Extra Payments | |
|---|--|
| When more than 2 passengers - £0.20 each Cleaning Fee – Travel Sickness - £20.00 Credit/Debit card payments - £1.00 | Pre-bookings – Call Out Charge - £0.60 Cancellation Fee - £2.00 |

NOTES:

- 1 Fares applicable only in Midlothian.
- 2 Any hire which terminates outwith Midlothian – fare by agreement before journey.
- 3 Approved by General Purposes Committee, Midlothian Council on 5 January 2016.
- 4 Copies of the Conditions and Regulations available for inspection at the Taxi Examination Centre, 33 Murrayburn Road, Edinburgh, Police Scotland, Divisional Headquarters, Newbattle Road, Dalkeith and Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith.

**THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL
CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982
CHANGES TO TAXI FARE TARIFF**

FOR UP TO 2 PASSENGERS

| | |
|---|---|
| TARIFF 1 Monday - Friday 6am – 6pm | TARIFF 2 Monday - Friday 6pm – 6am the following day 6am Saturday – 6am Monday |
| TARIFF 3 Monday - Friday 6am – 6pm during Christmas and New Year | TARIFF 4 Monday - Friday 6pm – 6am the following day 6am on Saturday – 6am Monday during Christmas and New Year |
| CHRISTMAS | 6pm on 24 December to 6am on 27 December |
| NEW YEAR | 6pm on 31 December to midnight on 2 January |

| CHARGES | TARIFF 1 | TARIFF 2 | TARIFF 3 | TARIFF 4 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initial hire not exceeding 516m ▪ Initial 105 seconds of waiting time ▪ Combination of initial time and distance | £2.60 | £3.60 | £3.60 | £4.60 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each additional 174m up until 1908m and thereafter each additional 201m ▪ Each additional 37 seconds of waiting time ▪ Combination of additional time and distance | £0.25 | £0.25 | - | - |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each additional 184m up until 1988m and thereafter each additional 213m ▪ Each additional 39 seconds of waiting time ▪ Combination of additional time and distance | - | - | £0.35 | £0.45 |

EXTRA PAYMENTS

| | | | |
|--|--------------|---|----------------------|
| When more than 2 passengers | | Each | £0.20 |
| Note: Only 2 children under 12 years will be reckoned as one passenger. No extra fare will be charged for one child under 5 years of age. | | | |
| Each Passenger must be properly seated | | | |
| Hires ending at Edinburgh Airport Inner Drop-off Zone (See Note 4 below) | | £1.00 | |
| Call Out Charge Applicable when pre-booked | £0.80 | Airport Pickup For hires commencing at Edinburgh airport | £2.80 maximum |
| Cancellation Fee Applicable when taxi is pre-booked but not used | £2.20 | Cleaning Fee Applicable when taxi is soiled (by travel sickness) | £50.00 |

NOTES

- (1) The above Tariff is applicable only within the City of Edinburgh.
- (2) Any hire which terminates outside the City of Edinburgh area – FARE MUST BE NEGOTIATED AND AGREED WITH DRIVER BEFORE THE JOURNEY COMMENCES.
- (3) A copy of the Licensing Conditions can be inspected at the Council's Licensing Offices, 249 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1YJ and downloaded from www.edinburgh.gov.uk
- (4) The Airport Extra is only payable if passenger is dropped off in the covered inner drop-off zone at Edinburgh Airport and the driver has explained to the passenger before the start of the journey - (1) He will take the passenger to the drop off point just beside the airport terminal and that there is a £1 extra for this. (2) If the passenger states he is disabled, the £1 extra still has to be paid, but the driver understands that the passenger can reclaim this from the airport at the drop-off point. (3) If the passenger wishes to avoid the £1 extra, he can be taken to an outer drop-off point. However, this is further from the airport terminal, involves the use of a free shuttle bus and will require more time for the passenger to get to the airport terminal.
- (5) Any airport pick up fee at the airport incurred by the driver subject to a maximum of £2.80

COMPLAINTS

Any hirer aggrieved at the level of the fare charged for any hire or for any other reason may discuss the matter with the Taxi Licensing Officer (0131 529 4250). Any complaint must be made in writing and addressed to the Complaints Officer, Licensing Service, The City of Edinburgh Council, 249 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ, and should include the vehicle's licence number and time and date of the incident.



**CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982
TAXI FARE STRUCTURE
MAXIMUM FARE LEVELS**

Notice is hereby given that in terms of Section 18(9) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the Taxi Fare levels with effect from 19 March 2018 are as follows:-

| | <u>No. of PASSENGERS</u> | |
|--|--------------------------|---------------|
| | <u>1 to 4</u> | <u>5 to 8</u> |
| <u>SOCIAL HOURS</u> | | |
| Initial Hire | £2.25 | £3.40 |
| Each 100.5 yards (approx. 93.60 metres) or part thereof | £0.10 | £0.15 |
| <u>Waiting Time</u> | | |
| After 60 seconds each 35 seconds | £0.10 | £0.15 |
| <u>Valeting/Customer Misuse</u> | | |
| Car valeting charge for customer misuse: | £70.00 | |
| <u>UNSOCIAL HOURS</u> | | |
| (a) In addition to social hours from 10.00pm to 6.00am | +25% | +25% |
| (b) Festive Season:- | | |
| Between 6.00pm on 24 December until 6.00am on 27 December and between 6.00pm on 31 December until 6.00am on 3 January | | |
| Initial Hire | £3.35 | £4.95 |
| Each 100.5 yards (approx. 93.60 metres) or part thereof | £0.15 | £0.25 |
| <u>Waiting Time</u> | | |
| After 60 seconds each 35 seconds | £0.15 | £0.25 |

B. FRATER
Service Director Regulatory Services

**THIS NOTICE MUST BE DISPLAYED
IN YOUR VEHICLE, IN A POSITION
WHERE IT CAN BE EASILY READ
BY THE FARE PAYING PUBLIC.**