

REPORT TO: Licensing Sub-Committee

MEETING DATE: 9 November 2023

BY: Head of Corporate Support

SUBJECT: Taxi Fare Review

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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To allow the Licensing Sub-Committee to consider the review of the scale of the fares or other charges currently in operation in respect of the East Lothian taxi fleet.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee –
- a) complete the review of taxi fares by considering the two responses received from local taxi operators and information on neighbouring local authority tariffs.
 - b) decide a date on which the confirmed tariff will come into effect.
 - c) 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 between January and July 2022 (Appendix 1 – existing tariff), with the fares being adopted on 27 August 2022 meaning that the next review is to be completed no later than February 2024 in order to comply with the statutory timescales.
- 3.2 To ensure compliance with this timescale, the review was initiated by way of consultation with the taxi trade in East Lothian regarding any proposals

they may have with regard to the review of taxi fares. That consultation ran from 31 July to 1 September 2023. There were two responses or proposals (Appendices 2 and 3) received, to alter the current fee structure. The Sub-Committee are entitled to complete the review of fares with the decision being to make no changes to the current levels or amend current levels.

- 3.3 The proposal (consultation response) of a 20% increase would result in the following fares (as at Appendix 4).
- 3.4 As part of the review of taxi fares, the Licensing Team has also consulted with other Licensing Authorities, namely, West Lothian, City of Edinburgh and Scottish Borders about their current scale of fares and other charges. A summary of their charges can be found at Appendix 5.
- 3.5 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. Said notice must also specify the date on which it is proposed that the tariff shall take effect, which must take account of the period for representations and for appeals to the Traffic Commissioners. It is therefore suggested that the proposed date of coming into effect should be 8 weeks after the date of advertising. Following the coming into effect of the tariff, there would be a further notice published confirming that the new tariff is now in effect.

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 INTEGRATED 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 None.

Appendix 1 – Existing tariff

Appendix 2 – Trade body response (Torrance)

Appendix 3 – Trade body response (Higgins)

Appendix 4 – Proposed 20% increase

Appendix 5 – Summary of neighbouring authority tariffs

AUTHOR'S NAME	Ian Forrest
DESIGNATION	Senior Solicitor
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DATE	20/10/2023

EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL
CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982
TAXI FARE SCALE

27 August 2022

FARE TABLE FOR TAXI CABS

For 1 to 8 Passengers	TARIFF 1 6am – 6pm	TARIFF 2 6pm- 6am	TARIFF 3
1. For the initial period of waiting and 2. For the initial hire not exceeding 713.70 yards	£3.00	£4.00	£5.00 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 each additional 40 seconds of waiting time 2. For every additional 146.5 yards 3. Or a combination of 1 and 2 above	20p	20p	40p

EXTRA PAYMENTS

- Car valeting charge for customer misuse - £100

NOTES

- The above fares are applicable only within East Lothian

Fitzpatrick, Sheila

From: Licensing
Sent: 01 September 2023 07:28
To: Fitzpatrick, Sheila
Subject: FW: Taxi Fare Review

For you

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From: Ian Torrance [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 September 2023 07:23
To: Licensing <licensing@eastlothian.gov.uk>
Subject: Taxi Fare Review

You don't often get email from torrancetaxis@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom It May Concern

In answer to your recent correspondence about East Lothian Taxi Fares which have not increased since July 2019

As with many businesses we needed to recover from covid, and a price rise sooner would possibly damage our recovery, however the time has come now for survival

An increase is now desperately required. I have spoken with Robert Campbell at AC taxis, and we agree that a fare increase similar to Edinburgh Council and Midlothian Council of 20% is what is required.

Regards

Ian Torrance

For and on behalf of

Torrance Taxis
1a Spott Road, Dunbar
East Lothian
EH42 1LE

Tel: 01368 862612

Web: <http://www.torrancetaxisandtravel.co.uk>.

The information contained in this e-mail and any accompanying documents may contain information

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Licensing](#)
Subject: RE: Fare Review
Date: 15 August 2023 15:08:56

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Hi Christine , I am in favour of a fare review because of increase in licences, fuel insurance , and general cost of living.
There has been no increase in taxi fares in 4 years yet everything else has been increased.
Regards
Lorna

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

On Tue, 15 Aug 2023 at 14:32, Licensing
<licensing@eastlothian.gov.uk> wrote:

Good afternoon Lorna

Thank you for your email re: Taxi Fare Review. At this stage we are only looking for operators to make a representation/comments in writing i.e. email or letter.

Your representation/comments will be taken to the Licensing Sub Committee at a later date.

Kind regards

Christine

From: Lorna [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 August 2023 14:13
To: Licensing <licensing@eastlothian.gov.uk>
Subject: Fare Review

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi, Elvis Taxi would like to register Lorna Higgins as a representative to the Sub committee meeting regarding the Taxi Fare Review.

Regards

Lorna Higgins

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

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

PROPOSED FARE TABLE FOR TAXI CABS (20% increase)

For 1 to 8 Passengers	TARIFF 1 6am – 6pm	TARIFF 2 6pm- 6am	TARIFF 3
1. For the initial period of waiting and 2. For the initial hire not exceeding 713.70 yards	£3.60	£4.80	£6.00 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 each additional 40 seconds of waiting time 2. For every additional 146.5 yards 3. Or a combination of 1 and 2 above	24p	24p	48p

EXTRA PAYMENTS

- Car valeting charge for customer misuse - £120

NOTES

- The above fares are applicable only within East Lothian

Appendix 5

		Tariff 1 0600 – 1800	Tariff 2 1800 – 0600	Tariff 3 1800, 24 Dec to 0600, 27 Dec and 1800, 31 Dec to 0600, 2 January		Additional charges	ELC
Initial period of waiting and initial hire < 713.70 yards	1 – 8 passengers	£3.00	£4.00	£5.00		Car valeting charge for customer misuse - £100.00	
1. Each additional 40 seconds of waiting time 2. Every additional 146.5 yards 3. Combination of 1 and 2		£0.20	£0.20	£0.40			
		Tariff 1 Mon – Fri, 0600 - 1800	Tariff 2 Mon – Thur and Fri – Mon, 1800 - 0600	Tariff 3 2200, 24 Dec to 0500, 27 Dec and 2200, 31 Dec to 0600, 2 January			WLC
Initial period of waiting (40 secs) and initial hire < 176 yards	Up to 2 passengers	£3.00	£3.40	£5.10		Soiling - £40.00 Each additional adult (>12yrs) - £0.60 Each additional child (5 – 12 yrs) - £0.20 Each piece of luggage - £0.20	

						(max £0.40 per hire) Item or luggage requiring assistance of driver - £6.00 Cancellation - £3.00 Engagement - £1.00	
1. Each additional 40 seconds of waiting time 2. Every additional 176 yards 3. Combination of 1 and 2		£0.20	£0.20	£0.30			
		Tariff 1 Social hours	Tariff 2 Unsocial hours (2200 – 0600)	Tariff 3 1800, 24 Dec to 0600, 27 Dec and 1800, 31 Dec to 0600, 3 January			Scot Borders
Initial period of waiting (60 secs) and each < 96.78 yards	1 – 4 passengers	£2.45 £0.10	£3.10 £0.10	£3.60 £0.15 (<77.43 yards)		Car valeting charge for customer misuse - £73.00 Waiting time – every 35 secs after initial period - £0.10. (Tariff 3 - £0.15)	

Initial period of waiting (60 secs) and each < 77.43 yards	5 – 8 passengers	£3.65 £0.15	£4.60 £0.15	£5.35 £0.25 (<77.43 yards)		Waiting time – every 35 secs after initial period - £0.15. (Tariff 3 - £0.25)	
		Tariff 1 Mon – Fri, 0600 – 1800	Tariff 2 Mon – Fri, 1800 – 0600 and Sat – Mon, 0600 - 0600	Tariff 3 Mon – Fri, 0600 – 1800 During Xmas & NY period (1800, 24/12 to 0600, 27/12 and 1800, 31/12 to 0000, 02/01)	Tariff 4 Mon – Fri 1800 – 0600 All day if Xmas & NY are a Sat or Sun		CEC
Initial period of waiting (105 secs) and Initial hire < 501m	Up to 3 passengers	£3.60	£4.80	£4.60	£5.75	Soiling - £50.00 >3 passengers - £0.40 Engagement - £0.80 Cancellation - £2.20	
1. Each additional 163m up to 1805m, thereafter each additional 190m. 2. Each additional 35 secs of waiting time. 3. Combination of 1 & 2		£0.30	£0.30				
1. Each additional 179m up to				£0.40	£0.52		

<p>1933m, thereafter each additional 207m.</p> <p>2. Each additional 35 secs of waiting time.</p> <p>3. Combination of 1 & 2</p>							
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WLC, Scot Borders and CEC all charge different rates depending on the number of passengers.

ELC – What is the initial period of waiting / when does additional payments for waiting time kick in?

Check with Alan Kelley/Bruce Moffat/Colin Squance re logistics of introducing more criteria to fares e.g. additional passengers etc. What is the initial waiting time set at currently?