

REPORT

To: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE		Subject: TAXI LICENSING - TAXI FARES REVIEW 2006	
From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION			
Date: 26 July, 2006	Ref: WBK/AW		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee that it is now necessary for the Council to carry out its statutory duty to periodically review taxi fares in its area.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 obliges the Council to fix from time to time scales for the fees and other charges in respect of the hire of taxis in its area. Such review requires to take place within 18 months of the date on which the scales came into effect. The current scales came into effect on 15 February 2005 and the Council therefore require to carry out the next taxi fares review.

2.2. Given that there have recently been meetings on a number of issues with taxi trade representatives, the Head of Legal Services has taken the opportunity to informally invite the representatives to canvass the views of their members with a view to bringing forward any proposals that they have in respect of a taxi fares review. Any proposals received will be reported to Committee after a period of assessment and consultation.

3. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1. The Committee requires to formally commence its statutory duty to review taxi fares and to give consideration to authorising the Head of Legal Services to consult with and enter discussions on the issue with the trade. It is intended that, following those discussions, the matter will be further reported to the Committee with the details of precise proposals for change. Once the Committee has had the opportunity of considering any proposals, the Committee will be asked to authorise the formal advertisement of such proposals in order that the public may have the opportunity to make representations prior to the Committee reaching a final decision.

4. CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

4.1. The issues raised in this report do not significantly impact on the Council's wider policies or positions.

5. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1. The Committee is asked to authorise the Head of Legal Services to enter a full consultation with the taxi trade on the issue of taxi fares and to report to Committee thereafter.

Walter B. Kilgour

W. **Director of Administration**

(Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact Alan Wright, Solicitor (Licensing) on extension 2214).