

REPORT

To: CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: TAXI LICENSING – TAXI FARE REVIEW 2013
From: HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES		
Date: 30 January 2013	Ref: JM/AMK/ GBM	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to advise the Committee of the outcome of the Consultation on taxi fare reviews and to present the matter for decision.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 obliges the Council to review from time to time the scales for the fares and other changes in respect of the hire of taxis. On 28 May 2012 the Committee authorised the Head of Legal Services to commence a full consultation on the issue of taxi fares and to report to the Committee thereafter.
- 2.2. On 12 November 2012 a meeting was held by the taxi owners association representatives (hereinafter referred to as “the Trade”) operating within North Lanarkshire Council area, namely, North, Central and South areas to discuss inter alia, taxi meter tariffs. The trade expressed that the North and Central areas were experiencing extreme competition from private hire fleets and felt that any increase in the fare tariffs would result in more customers potentially using the private hire companies, rather than taxis and as such no increase in the fare tariffs were being proposed. The South area expressed the view, in contrast, that almost all the private hire vehicles are working within the same fleets as the licensed taxis and at the same tariffs therefore, any increase in the tariff would have minimal effect on customer numbers.
- 2.3. The trade also took into account that combining the votes of Central and North areas would result in a large majority by voting against any fares increase but it was appreciated that for the reasons indicated above, that a minimal increase in fares in respect of the South area, would have little or no impact with regard to the operating fleets or potential customers.
- 2.4. In the Central area there is no proposal to amend the existing tariff fares.
- 2.5. In the North area there is no proposal to amend the existing tariff fares.
- 2.6. In the South area a proposal though not consensual, was put forward by the Operations Manager for Maxi Taxis, who operate a substantial business operation. The proposals are as undernoted:-
- (a) that the fare by distance exceeding 880 yards, for each 103.5 yards (or part thereof), currently 110 yards (or part thereof), a charge of 10p be levied;

- (b) when transporting more than four people or providing a service that a saloon type is not capable of (excluding disabled and wheelchair passengers, prams and buggies) operators should be allowed to add £2.00 on to the flag fare (currently set at £1.00 for this service); and
- (c) when transporting more than 4 people or providing a service that a saloon type is not capable of (excluding disabled and wheelchair passengers, prams and buggies) to an area outside North Lanarkshire (all areas) operators should be allowed to charge a single meter tariff plus one third. The Operations Manager is of the opinion that the above proposals would still provide value for money to all parties as this would still be cheaper than the cost of hiring two taxis and the financial gain would assist trade members in off-setting the extra financial running costs of a wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV).

3. By letter dated 7 March 2011 following discussions the "Trade" proposed to harmonise fares across North, Central and South areas and not to implement boundary charges either within or outside the North Lanarkshire taxi area. The proposal was subsequently agreed by the Committee. A copy of the present fare tariffs are attached as Appendix "A".

4. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

The Committee is required to consider the following options:-

- 4.1. Whether or not to disaggregate the current fare structures as indicated at paragraph 3 above.
- 4.2. To implement the proposals by the South area across the board, or
- 4.3. To retain the present fare tariffs as proposed by both the North and Central areas.

5. CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

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

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. Given the majority view expressed by trade members from the North and Central areas the recommendation is that the status quo is maintained and no increase in taxi fares is applied.


Head of Legal Services

Members seeking further information on the context of this report are asked to contact George Macdonald, Solicitor (Licensing) on extension 2733.

APPENDIX A

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

**FARES TARIFF
SOUTH, CENTRAL AND NORTH LICENSING AREAS**

TAXI/PRIVATE HIRE CAR LICENCE NO
VEHICLE REG. MARK
LICENCE HOLDERS NAME
LICENCED TO CARRY..... PASSENGERS

The Driver's Licence No. is shown on his/her badge which he/she is obliged to wear conspicuously.

FARES BY DISTANCE

For a distance not exceeding 880 yards £2.00
Each additional 110 yards (or part thereof) 10p

FARES FOR WAITING

Every THIRTY seconds (or part thereof)10p

EXTRA CHARGES

Hires between 12 midnight and 5am£1.00
Called but not used between 5am and 12 midnight£2.00
Called but not used between 12 midnight and 5am£3.00
Hirings begun or ending on 25 or 26 December or 1 or 2 January
(and until 7am on 27 December and 3 January) 1.5 X Meter
Soiling Charge (valeting charge)£30.00
Where purpose built/adapted vehicle requested to carry more than 4 passengers or
To carry out a task unsuitable for a saloon type vehicle. (Except for disabled and
Wheelchair passengers)..... £1.00

No separate fare shall be charged to, or payable by each passenger under any circumstances. The fare shown on the face of the taximeter includes V.A.T.

Complaints regarding defective taximeters, drivers not wearing badge or property left in carriage, should be made at once at a Police Office and to the Head of Legal Services, North Lanarkshire Council, Civic Centre, Windmillhill Street, Motherwell ML1 1AB. The Taxi/Private Hire Car Licence Number and vehicle registration number should always be quoted.

The driver shall assist, when required, in loading and unloading without any extra charge.

**THE ABOVE FARES STRUCTURE COMES INTO OPERATION ON
4 JULY 2011**

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

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