
Report To:	General Purposes Board	Date:	8 September 2021
Report By:	Interim Head of Legal Services	Report No:	LS/075/21
Contact Officer:	Fiona Denver	Contact No:	01475 712109
Subject:	Tax Fares Review 2020/2021		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Board to determine the taxi fare scale and charges following its annual review.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 At the meeting on 9 June 2021, the Board following consideration of the papers before it, decided to adopt the scale of taxi fare and other charges set out in the note of tariff which forms **Appendix 1** to this report.
- 2.2 Members are asked to note that the costings for the additional scales in each tariff are detailed as approximate and should not be seen as an essential part of the fare scales.
- 2.3 It should be noted, further, that the tariffs set out by the local authority are the maximum fares that may be charged by the operators of taxis within Inverclyde.
- 2.4 The proposed taxi fare scales were duly advertised and objections and representations were to be invited within the statutory period of one month following the date of advertising. No objections or representations have been received.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Board determine the taxi fare scale and charges following the annual review and that it be remitted to the Interim Head of Legal Services to make the necessary arrangements to implement the new taxi fare scales with effect from 26 September 2021.

Anne Sinclair
Interim Head of Legal Services

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Council as Licensing Authority is obliged to fix scales for the fares and other charges in its area in connection with the fare of a taxi. Fares require to be fixed within 18 months beginning with the date on which the scales came into effect.
- 4.2 The last Taxi Fares Review was carried out during 2019 with a revised Taxi Fare Scale being fixed, which came into effect on 1 December 2019.
- 4.3 The consultation for the 2020/2021 Taxi Fare Review commenced in September 2020.
- 4.4 The initial annual fare review report was considered at a meeting on 10 February 2021, whereby Members agreed to continue consideration to allow Officers to provide clarification on fares in terms of tables in a percentage form.
- 4.5 At the meeting on 26 February 2021 Members agreed to increase the initial flag fall across all tariffs by 1%; increase each additional yardage after the initial flag fall by 1% across all tariffs; and remit to the Head of Legal & Property Services to advertise the proposals determined and report on the outcome once the statutory period for representations has lapsed.
- 4.6 The proposals were advertised in the local newspaper on 16 March 2021. An objection to the proposals was submitted by Inverclyde Taxis Ltd and ABC Taxis (Inverclyde) Ltd.
- 4.7 The objection was considered at a meeting on 9 June 2021. Members agreed to increase the initial flagfall by 20p across all tariffs; and remit to the Interim Head of Legal Services to advertise the proposals determined and report on the outcome once the statutory period for representations has lapsed.
- 4.8 The proposed scales were advertised in the local newspaper on 23 June 2021 in order that representations may be made within one month from the date of publication of the notice. No objections or representations were received.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Finance

After fixing the scales, copies of the new tariff card to be produced and issued to all taxi and private hire licence holders to be displayed in their vehicles, this will be funded from the licensing budget.

Staff costs of the fare review and meter calibration will be contained within Environmental and Public Protection existing approved budgets.

There will be a financial cost to the Licensing Team producing and issuing the above documentation. These costs will be met within existing licensing budgets.

5.2 Legal

In terms of Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the Council, as licensing authority, is obliged to review and fix the maximum sales of fares and surcharges so that they take effect within 18 months beginning with the date on which the previous scale came into effect.

Operators of taxis or any person or organisation appearing to the Traffic Commissioner to be a representative of such taxi operators can appeal to the Traffic Commissioner against any decision the Local Authority makes in respect of fixing fares and surcharges. Any appeal must be made to the Traffic Commissioner for the Scottish Traffic Area within 14 days of notice being given by the Licensing Authority.

5.3 Human Resources

There are no Human Resources Implications.

5.4 Equalities

Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO

5.5 Repopulation

There are no repopulation implications.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 The tariffs were advertised in the local press in order that representations may be made on the agreed proposal by a specified date at least one month from the date of the newspaper advertisement.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

INVERCLYDE COUNCIL

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

TARIFF 1	Hirings from ranks or "flag" hirings begun between 6am and 11pm	
	Initial charge (880 yards or part thereof)	£2.75
	Subsequent charge (each additional 294 yards or part thereof)	£0.31
	Approximate cost for first mile	£3.68
	Approximate cost for each additional mile	£1.86
TARIFF 2	Hirings from ranks or "flag" hirings begun between 11pm and 6am and all pre-booked hirings begun between 6am and 10pm	
	Initial charge (880 yards or part thereof)	£2.85
	Subsequent charge (each additional 285 yards or part thereof)	£0.31
	Approximate cost for first mile	£4.09
	Approximate cost for each additional mile	£2.17
TARIFF 3	Pre-booked hirings begun between 10pm and 6am and hirings from ranks or "flag" hirings on Easter Monday, May Day, Fair Saturday and Autumn Holiday	
	Initial charge (880 yards or part thereof)	£3.05
	Subsequent charge (each additional 249 yards or part thereof)	£0.31
	Approximate cost for first mile	£4.29
	Approximate cost for each additional mile	£2.48
TARIFF 4	Pre-booked hirings and hirings from ranks or "flag" hirings on 25 & 26 December and 1 & 2 January	
	Initial charge (first mile or part thereof)	£5.35
	Subsequent charge (each additional 249 yards or part thereof)	£0.31
	Approximate cost for first mile	£5.35
	Approximate cost for each additional mile	£2.48
EXTRAS	£1 per passenger after first four passengers	
WAITING TIME	For each period of 31 seconds or part thereof	£0.20
SOILING CHARGE	Charge dependent on severity up to a maximum of	£50.00
VAT	The foregoing charges are inclusive of Value Added Tax	

For the avoidance of doubt, a vehicle licensed for private hire which uses a taxi meter to charge for journeys is not permitted thereby to pick up hirings from a rank or any public place.