

A meeting of the General Purposes Board will be held on Wednesday 12 April 2023 at 3pm.

Members may attend the meeting in person or access the meeting by remote online access. The joining details will be sent to Members and Officers prior to the meeting. Members are requested to notify Fiona Denver by 12 noon on Monday 10 April 2023 how they intend to access the meeting.

In the event of connectivity issues, Members are asked to use the *join by phone* number in the Webex invitation.

IAIN STRACHAN
Head of Legal & Democratic Services

BUSINESS

1.	Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest	Page
2.	Taxi Fares Review 2022/23 Report by Head of Legal & Democratic Services	P
The documentation relative to the following item has been treated as exempt information in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended, the nature of the exempt information being that set out in paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.		
3.	Request for Suspension of Taxi Driver's Licence Report by Head of Legal & Democratic Services requesting the Board to consider the suspension of a Taxi Driver's Licence	P

Report To:	General Purposes Board	Date:	12 April 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Report No:	LS/034/23
Contact Officer:	Anne Sinclair	Contact No:	01475 712034
Subject:	Taxi Fares Review 2022/23		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to ask Members of the General Purposes Board to determine the taxi fare scale and charges following the statutory consultation process as part of the Board's annual review. This review has been conducted under section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

1.3 There have been no objections or representations received by the Council following the statutory consultation on the proposed taxi fare scale set out in **Appendix 1** which was approved by the General Purposes Board on 22 February 2023.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Board determine the taxi fare scale and charges following the annual review and that it be remitted to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make the necessary arrangements to implement the new taxi fare scales.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal & Democratic Services

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 In terms of Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (“ the 1982 Act “) the Council as Licensing Authority for taxis is obliged to renew and fix scales for the fares, and other charges, within 18 months beginning with the date on which the scales came into effect. Section 17 of the 1982 Act does not apply to Private Hire Cars, although some Private Hire Cars may choose to adopt the Taxi Fare Scale and Charges agreed by the Board.
- 3.2 At its meeting on 9 November 2022 the Board noted that the statutory review of the Council’s Taxi Fare Scale and other charges had commenced and that a further report would be submitted to the Board with a note of the outcome.
- 3.3 At a further meeting on 22 February 2023 the Board was advised that the initial consultation process had concluded and that all Taxi Operators, including the Operators Liaison Group and other members of the trade had been consulted and invited to submit their view regarding what they deemed to be the appropriate level of taxi fares in order that any revision of the fare scales could be implemented. The Board, having considered representations, decided to adopt the scale of taxi fares and other charges as set out in the tariff card in **Appendix 1** to this report. The Board decided:
- (1) that it be remitted to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to publicly advertise the fare scales as determined by the Board with (a) an increase of 12 % on the flag fall on all 4 tariffs, and (b) a further increase of 12 % on the running mile; and
 - (2) that it be remitted to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to submit a further report to the Board on the outcome once the statutory period for representations has lapsed.
- 3.4 As part of the Statutory consultation process the proposed revised taxi fare scales were duly advertised on 7 March 2023 with responses due to be submitted to the Council within the statutory period of one month. No objections or representations have been received by the Council to date in relation to the proposed revised taxi fare scale. Should any objections or representations be received before 6 April 2023 copies will be made available to the members of the Board in advance of the hearing on 12 April 2023.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Subject to any appeal against the decision by the Council as licensing authority, it is proposed that arrangements be made for the fare scales to take effect from Sunday 14 May 2023 and to be completed by the following Sunday 21 May 2023.
- 4.2 It should be noted that the tariffs set out by the local authority are the maximum fares that may be charged by the operators of taxis within Inverclyde.
- 4.3 The change in taxi meters will be carried out by the normal complement of Council staff in Roads and Environmental Services with the assistance of a representative of the electronic meter company.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial	X		
Legal/Risk	X		
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)			X
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing			X
Environmental & Sustainability			X
Data Protection			X

5.2 Finance

There are costs associated with the review of the taxi tariff in terms of outlays, such as advertising costs and the cost of staff time associated within the process from consultation with the trade to conclusion. There are also additional costs associated with the production of the new fares scale cards. All these costs are met from existing budgets.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 Legal/Risk

The Board should note that Section 17 of the 1982 Act states that the licensing authority must fix scales for the fares and other charges within 18 months beginning with the date on which the scales last come into effect.

5.4 Human Resources

There are no Human Resources implications directly arising from this report.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 An initial consultation was carried out with taxi operators and representatives of the taxi trade prior to the meeting of the General Purposes Board on 22 February 2023 with a further statutory consultation having taken place.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

INVERCLYDE COUNCIL
Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982
REVIEW OF TAXI FARES AND CHARGES 2022/2023

Inverclyde Council, as Licensing Authority is currently undertaking a review of the present level of taxi fares and other charges in respect of taxi services and agreed that the fare scales and charges for the review for the purposes of public consultation be as follows:

TARIFF 1	Hirings from ranks or "flag" hirings begun between 6am and 11pm	
	Initial charge (880 yards or part thereof)	£3.08
	Subsequent charge (each additional 291 yards or part thereof)	£0.35
	Approximate cost for first mile	£4.13
	Approximate cost for each additional mile	£2.45
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)	£3.19
	Subsequent charge (each additional 282 yards or part thereof)	£0.35
	Approximate cost for first mile	£4.59
	Approximate cost for each additional mile	£2.45
TARIFF 3	Pre-booked hirings begun between 10pm and 6am and hirings from ranks or "flag" hirings on Easter Monday (1 April 2024), May Day (6 May 2024), Fair Saturday (1 July 2023) and Autumn Holiday (26 September 2023)	
	Initial charge (880 yards or part thereof)	£3.42
	Subsequent charge (each additional 247 yards or part thereof)	£0.35
	Approximate cost for first mile	£4.82
	Approximate cost for each additional mile	£2.80
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)	£5.99
	Subsequent charge (each additional 247 yards or part thereof)	£0.35
	Approximate cost for first mile	£5.99
	Approximate cost for each additional mile	£2.80
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.

Subject to the consultation process, it is proposed that any new rate of fares and charges be implemented with effect from 14 May 2023.

Any person wishing to make representations in relation to the Council's proposals for review of the scale of taxi fares and charges may do so in writing to the Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Inverclyde Council, Municipal Buildings, Greenock within one month from the date of publication of this notice.