

Report To: GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD **Date:** 12 August 2015

Report By: HEAD OF LEGAL AND PROPERTY SERVICES **Report No** LP/099/15

Contact Officer: LINDSAY CARRICK **Contact No:** 01475 712114

Subject: TAXI FARES REVIEW 2015

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the views of the Board on the annual review of taxi fare scales for the purposes of public advertisement as the first formal stage of the statutory process.
- 1.2 The informal consultation process for this year's review of the taxi fares has commenced and the Operators Liaison Group and other members of the trade have been invited to submit their view of the level of taxi fares so that any revision of the fare scales will be implemented in November.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The taxi trade were invited to submit their views on the taxi fare scales and a copy of the letter of response received from Inverclyde Taxis Ltd dated 17 June 2015 forms Appendix 1 to this report. The taxi trade wish to maintain the current fare structure as approved in November 2014. Appendix 2 to this report details the current fare scales.
- 2.2 The trade have requested that the General Purposes Board give due consideration to a review of official and unofficial taxi ranks and allocation of spaces. In addition they request that the Board endorse a discount structure to Taxi/Private Hire fees. The Board may wish to note that these requests will be dealt with as a separate matter from the Taxi Fares Review.

The Head of Environmental & Commercial Services was invited to submit his views on the taxi fare scales and has confirmed that Environmental & Commercial Services support the trade's proposal of fares being maintained at the current level.

The Board should note that The Licensing authority must fix scales for the fares and other charges mentioned in Section 17 (1) of the 1982 Act within 18 months beginning with the date on which the scales came into effect.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board consider the submissions from the taxi trade and the Head of Environmental & Commercial Services and maintain the current fare structure.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

4.1 There are no financial Implications

Legal

4.2 The Board should note that the Licensing authority must fix scales for the fares and other charges mentioned in Section 17 (1) of the 1982 Act within 18 months beginning with the date on which the scales came into effect.

Human Resources

4.3 There are no Human Resources implications.

Equalities

4.4 There are no equalities implications.

Repopulation

4.5 There are no repopulation implications.



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GREENOCK
PA16 0EQ

Lindsay Carrick
Senior Admin Officer
Inverclyde Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Municipal Buildings
Clyde Square
Greenock
PA15 1LY

Your Ref: LC/JD/TAX0017

17th June 2015

Dear Ms Carrick,

Re: Taxi Fares Review 2015

In answer to your correspondence dated 1st June 2015, I have much pleasure in responding accordingly on behalf of Inverclyde Taxis Ltd, ABC Taxis (Inverclyde) Ltd and associated Operators Liaison Group (hereinafter called ITL, ABC and OLG respectively) regarding the proposed Taxi Fares Review 2015.

ITL, ABC and OLG remain extremely conscious and mindful of the current challenging times being experienced by all sectors of the community, including the taxi trade, and confirm the overwhelming consensus amongst operators and drivers alike is that the trade wish to maintain the current fare structure as approved in November 2014.

We, ITL, ABC and OLG would therefore respectively request that the General Purposes Board give due consideration and endorse the following proposals: -

1. We would ask that the GPB members agree to a Consultation with Operators regarding the current Licensing Fees & Structures prior to the Councils next review of Licensing fees. It is anticipated that the GPB would endorse a discount structure similar to that of our neighbouring Councils to Taxi / Private Hire Fess for payment in advance (e.g. 2/3-years fees paid in advance subject to an agreed discount structure), as this would ease the financial / administration burden on Inverclyde Council resources and operators alike.
2. As we continue to strive for continuous improvements in maintaining a high level of customer service, we would respectively request that the General Purposes Board give due consideration to a full and transparent review of official / unofficial taxi ranks and allocation of spaces, as the status quo is causing a degree of confusion and unnecessary inconveniences for the Council, Police and trade. The last official request to the Licensing Department took some time to produce a list of taxi ranks as there appeared to be a degree of uncertainty pertaining to official ranks. It should be acknowledged that it has been some years since a review of taxi ranks and allocation of spaces has been conducted, hence this request as there has been significant changes in customer demands in relation to preferred pick-up points.

24 hours a day - Just a phone call away!

BOOKINGS: 01475 634563 / 734563 ADMINISTRATION: 01475 730000 FAX: 01475 650710
EMAIL: ENQUIRIES@INVERCLYDETAXIS.CO.UK WWW.INVERCLYDETAXIS.CO.UK

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3. We would respectfully request that if Inverclyde Council were to introduce any measures which would have a direct financial impact on Operators and drivers, that it is agreed that the next fare review in 2016 is brought forward to accommodate any additional financial burden brought upon the trade.

You will no doubt acknowledge our submission is accruing for many factors that affect the community, whilst also attempting to sustain a credible income for operators and drivers.

Should you require any additional information or clarification on any point, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Assuring you of our best attention at all times.

Yours faithfully,
For and on behalf of Inverclyde Taxis Ltd

Martyn Hambley
Operations Manger

c.c. Graham Campbell
Alex Gray
Operators Liaison Group

INVERCLYDE COUNCIL
Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982
NOTE OF TARIFF

GENERAL HIRE CAB NO _____ REGISTRATION NO _____

TABLE OF MAXIMUM FARES FOR THE "EXCLUSIVE" HIRING OF A TAXI
EFFECTIVE FROM 23 NOVEMBER 2014

TARIFF 1	Hirings from ranks or 'flag' hirings begun between 6am and 11pm	
	Initial charge (1,004 yards or part thereof)	£2.50
	Subsequent charge (each additional 110 yards or part thereof)	10p
	Approximate cost for first mile	£3.20
	Approximate cost for each additional mile	£1.60
TARIFF 2	Hirings from ranks or 'flag' hirings begun between 11pm and 6am and all pre-booked hirings begun between 6am and 11pm	
	Initial charge (974 yards or part thereof)	£2.60
	Subsequent charge (each additional 107 yards or part thereof)	10p
	Approximate cost for first mile	£3.40
	Approximate cost for each additional mile	£1.60
TARIFF 3	Pre-booked hirings begun between 11pm and 6am and hirings from ranks or 'flag' hirings on 6 April (Easter holiday), 4 May (May Day), 4 July (Fair Saturday) and 7 September (Autumn holiday)	
	Initial charge (974 yards or part thereof)	£2.80
	Subsequent charge (each additional 94 yards or part thereof)	10p
	Approximate cost for first mile	£3.70
	Approximate cost for each additional mile	£1.90
TARIFF 4	Pre-booked hirings and hirings from ranks or 'flag' hirings on 25 December, 26 December, 1 and 2 January.	
	Initial charge (first mile or part thereof)	£5.10
	Subsequent charge (each additional 102 yards or part thereof)	10p
	Approximate cost for first mile	£5.10
	Approximate cost for each additional mile	£1.70
EXTRAS	£1 per passenger after first four passengers	
WAITING TIME	For each period of 31 seconds or part thereof	20p
SOILING CHARGE	Charge dependent on severity up to a maximum of	£50.00
VAT	The foregoing charges are inclusive of Value Added Tax	
COMPLAINTS	Any complaint regarding the operation of this vehicle or its driver should be made to Legal and Property Services, The Inverclyde Council, Municipal Buildings, Greenock (telephone 712107)	
LOST PROPERTY	Any property lost in this vehicle should be reported to the operator and to Police Scotland, Greenock (telephone 492500)	

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.