

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services

Licensing Committee – 2 August 2011

**Subject: Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982
Review of Taxi Fares and Charges
Clydebank Taxi Licensing Zone**

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To report to the Committee on a proposed review of fares and charges applicable to taxis operating within the Clydebank Taxi Licensing Zone.

2. Background

- 2.1** In terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act, 1982 licensing authorities are required to review the scales for taxi fares and related charges at intervals not exceeding 18 months from the date on which the scales came into effect.
- 2.2** The fares and charges which are applicable to taxis operating within the Clydebank Taxi Licensing Zone have been in effect since 16 April 2010.
- 2.3** The current fares and charges relating to the Clydebank Taxi Zone, which have been in effect since 16 April 2010, are detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.

3 Main Issues

- 3.1** A letter was sent to Mr. B. Gourlay, General Secretary, Clydebank Public Hire Association on 1 February, 2011 concerning the requirement to review scales and requesting the views of the Association on a review.
- 3.2** A letter was also sent to Clydebank Taxis Operators Liaison Group on 1 February, 2011 concerning the requirement to review scales and requesting the views of the Liaison Group on a review.
- 3.3** A response was received from Mr. Gourlay on 9 March 2011 indicating that the Clydebank Public Hire Association were not in favour of requesting an increase in the taxi scales at this moment in time.
- 3.4** A response was received from Clydebank Taxis on behalf of the Clydebank Taxis Operators Liaison Group on 7 March 2011 indicating that they too were not in favour of requesting an increase in the taxi scales at this moment in time.

3.5 In terms of the relevant legislation, before fixing any scales or carrying out any review, in addition to consulting with persons or organisations appearing to be representative of operators of taxis within the area, the Licensing Authority is required:

- (a) to give notice of their intention by advertisement in a newspaper circulating in their area stating the general effect of the proposals and the date when they propose that their decision will take effect;
- (b) to invite representations from any persons with respect to the proposals within a period of one month from the date of publication of the notice; and
- (c) to consider any such representations which have been duly lodged before a decision is taken on the matter.

3.6 Notice of the proposed scales appeared in the Clydebank Post on 11 May 2011 inviting representations from any persons with respect to the proposals within a period of one month from the date of publication of the notice.

3.7 1 representation was received in relation to the proposals from licensed taxi operator, Mr. Edward McQuade who cited the increased costs in road tax, insurance, fuel, tyres, parts, labour costs, test fees, licence fees, VAT and general cost of living as the reason for his representation. However no alternative proposal was submitted.

3.8 Mr. McQuade was lettered on 10 June 2011 and asked to submit an alternative proposal which was subsequently received on 30 June 2011. Mr. McQuade has asked that the initial flag fall be increased by 30p on all tariffs with no change being made to the running mile. A table outlining the proposal as a percentage increase on journeys for 1, 2 & 5 miles is detailed in Appendix 2.

3.9 Mr. McQuade's letter states that the requested proposal of a 30p increase on all tariffs is from 'operatives we consulted'. Mr. McQuade will supply details to the Licensing Committee of who the 'operatives we consulted' are if Members wish to consider Mr. McQuade's submission as being reflective of the opinion of a wider section of the taxi community. Mr. McQuade however was the only person to submit a representation within the one month deadline.

3.10 There is provision within the legislation for taxi operators within the area to appeal to the Traffic Commissioner against any decision of the licensing authority on the review of scales.

4. People Implication

4.1 There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 There is no increased risk to the Council associated with the contents of this report.

7. Equalities, Health & Humans Rights Impact Assessment

7.1 No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential impact of this report.

8. Strategic Assessment

8.1 There are no strategic implications.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that the representation submitted by Mr. McQuade be considered along with the earlier responses received from both the Clydebank Public Hire Association and Clydebank Taxis on behalf of the Clydebank Taxis Operators Liaison Group who were not in favour of requesting an increase in the taxi scales at this moment in time. It is recommended that the Committee confirms that the proposed scales are now approved and authorises officers to conclude the review by notifying the taxi trade of the new scales and, if there is no appeal against the scales by a taxi operator, by giving public notice that the new scales are to come into effect.

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Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services

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Appendices:

1. Current Fare Chart for Clydebank Taxi Zone.
2. Details of percentage increases over set distances.

Background Papers:

1. Letter to Mr. B. Gourlay dated 1 February 2011.
2. Letter to Clydebank Taxis Operators Liaison Group dated 1 February 2011.
3. Letter from Mr. B Gourlay dated 9 March 2011.
4. Letter from Clydebank Taxis dated 11 March 2011.
5. Letter to Mr. B. Gourlay dated 15 April 2011.
6. Letter to Clydebank Taxis Operators Liaison Group dated 15 April 2011.
7. Letter from Mr. E. McQuade dated 1 June 2011.
8. Letter to Mr. E. McQuade dated 10 June 2011.
9. Letter from Mr. E. McQuade dated 30 June 2011.
10. Letter to Mr. C. Murray dated 8 July 2011.
11. Letter to Clydebank Taxis Operators Liaison Group dated 8 July 2011.
12. Letter to Mr. E. McQuade dated 8 July 2011.

Wards Affected: N/A.

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982
Fare Chart (Effective from 16th April 2010)
CLYDEBANK ZONE



CLYDEBANK ZONE

Fares by Distance

Tariff One

6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. daily

For a distance not exceeding 5/11ths OF A MILE
or for waiting time not exceeding 3 minutes 45
seconds (or a combination of both).....£2.20
For each additional 1/17th OF A MILE£0.10

Tariff Two

10.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m. daily
6.00 p.m. to 12 midnight on
Christmas Eve and 31st December

For a distance not exceeding
5/11ths OF A MILE..... ..£2.70
For each additional 1/18th OF A MILE... ..£0.10

Tariff Three

Midnight on 24th December to
Midnight on 26th December and
Midnight on 31st December to
Midnight on 2nd January

For a distance not exceeding
5/11ths OF A MILE..... ..£3.70
For each additional 1/20th OF A MILE.£0.10

Between 10.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m. a 50p extra charge applies

Any hire terminating outwith the West Dunbartonshire area will be at a rate to be agreed at the time of hire.

Fares for Waiting

The driver is, in addition to the above, entitled to charge for waiting whether in one stoppage or in several stoppages as follows:
For each period of THIRTY SECONDS or part thereof.....£0.10

Extra Charges

A charge of £2.20 shall be payable for a taxi called by telephone and not used.
An additional charge of 10p shall be payable for each passenger beyond two.

Soiling Fee

A fee is chargeable for any soiling which necessitates a taxi being removed from service for cleaning. Soiling in this context includes any soiling by means of food, drink, vomit, urine or excrement.

	1 mile					2 mile					5 mile							
		Current		Proposed		Increase		Current		Proposed		Increase		Current		Proposed		Increase
Tariff 1		£3.20		£3.50		9.37%		£4.90		£5.20		6.12%		£10.00		£10.30		3.00%
Tariff 2		£3.70		£4.00		8.11%		£5.50		£5.80		5.45%		£10.90		£11.20		2.75%
Tariff 3		£4.80		£5.10		6.25%		£6.80		£7.10		4.41%		£12.80		£13.10		2.34%