

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services**

#### **Licensing Committee – 2 August 2011**

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**Subject: Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982  
Review of Taxi Fares and Charges  
Dumbarton 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 Dumbarton 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 Dumbarton Taxi Licensing Zone have been in effect since 16 April 2010. The last effective date on which an increase to the scales for taxi fares and related charges was implemented in the Dumbarton Taxi Licensing zone was 17 April 2008.
- 2.3** The current fares and charges relating to the Dumbarton 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. D. Thomson, West Dunbartonshire Area Taxi Trade 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 Mr. J. Watters who appears to be representative of operators of taxis within Dumbarton, on 1 February, 2011 concerning the requirement to review scales and requesting the views of the taxi trade on a review.
- 3.3** A response was received from Mr. D. Thomson on 28 February 2011 indicating that the West Dunbartonshire Area Taxi Trade Association wished to request an increase in the taxi scales. A table outlining their proposal as a percentage increase on journeys for 1, 2 & 5 miles is detailed in Appendix 2.

**3.4** No response was received from Mr. Watters.

**3.5** West Dunbartonshire Area Taxi Trade Association's suggested changes to the current fare chart are as follows:

- (a) Taxi fares will move from the Tariff 1 rate to the Tariff 2 rate from 9.00 pm as opposed to the current time of 10.00 pm.
- (b) Taxi fares will move from the Tariff 4 rate to the Tariff 5 rate from 9.00 pm as opposed to the current time of 10.00 pm.
- (c) An increase in the initial flagfall from £2.00 to £2.20 on Tariff 1 with a reduction in the distance travelled from 1/16 of a mile to 1/18 of a mile for each additional 10p
- (d) An increase in the initial flagfall from £2.50 to £2.70 on Tariff 2 with a reduction in the distance travelled from 1/18 of a mile to 1/20 of a mile for each additional 10p
- (e) An increase in the initial flagfall from £3.50 to £4.00 on Tariff 3 with a reduction in the distance travelled from 1/21 of a mile to 1/25 of a mile for each additional 10p
- (f) An increase in the initial flagfall from £2.40 to £2.70 on Tariff 4 with a reduction in the distance travelled from 1/20 of a mile to 1/22 of a mile for each additional 10p
- (g) An increase in the initial flagfall from £2.90 to £3.20 on Tariff 5 with a reduction in the distance travelled from 1/21 of a mile to 1/24 of a mile for each additional 10p
- (h) An increase in the initial flagfall from £4.00 to £5.00 on Tariff 6 with a reduction in the distance travelled from 1/26 of a mile to 1/30 of a mile for each additional 10p
- (i) Waiting time to be reduced from 30 seconds to 24 seconds on all tariffs for each additional 10p

**3.6** 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.

**3.7** Having considered the contents of the report at the Licensing Committee on 3 May 2011, Members requested that a further report be submitted to the Licensing Committee whether representations or objections to the proposals were received or not.

**3.8** Notice of the proposed scales appeared in the Dumbarton and Vale of Leven Reporter on 10 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.

**3.9** No objections or representations were received in relation to the proposals.

**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**

There are no strategic implications.

#### **9. Conclusions and Recommendations**

**9.1** 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

GP11  
RM 30/06/11

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**Appendices:**

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

**Background Papers:**

1. Letter to Mr. D. Thomson dated 1 February 2011.
2. Letter to Mr. J. Watters dated 1 February 2011.
3. Letter from Mr. D. Thomson dated 28 February 2011.
4. Letter to Mr. D. Thomson dated 15 April 2011.
5. Letter to Mr. J. Watters dated 15 April 2011.
6. Letter to D. Thomson dated 8 July 2011.
7. Letter to J. Watters dated 8 July 2011.

**Wards Affected:** N/A.

**Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982**  
**Fare Chart (Effective from 16<sup>th</sup> April 2010)**  
**DUMBARTON AND VALE OF LEVEN ZONE**



<b>Tariff One</b> 6.00am to 10.00pm Monday to Thursday 6.00am to 9.00pm Friday to Sunday	For a distance not exceeding ½ OF A MILE..... For each additional 1/16th mile.....	£2.00 £0.10
<b>Tariff Two</b> 10.00pm to 6.00am Monday to Thursday 9.00pm to 6.00am Friday to Sunday	For a distance not exceeding ½ OF A MILE..... For each additional 1/18th mile.....	£2.50 £0.10
<b>Tariff Three</b> 6.00pm on 24th December to 6.00am on 27th December and 6.00pm on 31st December to 6.00am on 3rd January	For a distance not exceeding ½ OF A MILE..... For each additional 1/21st mile.....	£3.50 £0.10
<b>Tariff Four</b> 6.00am to 10.00pm Monday to Thursday 6.00am to 9.00pm Friday to Sunday (Only applicable when five or more passengers are being carried)	For a distance not exceeding ½ OF A MILE..... For each additional 1/20th mile.....	£2.40 £0.10
<b>Tariff Five</b> 10.00pm to 6.00am Monday to Thursday 9.00pm to 6.00am Friday to Sunday (Only applicable when five or more passengers are being carried)	For a distance not exceeding ½ OF A MILE..... For each additional 1/21st mile.....	£2.90 £0.10
<b>Tariff Six</b> Christmas and New Year hours as per Tariff Three (Only applicable when five or more passengers are being carried)	For a distance not exceeding ½ OF A MILE..... For each additional 1/26th mile.....	£4.00 £0.10

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 (All Tariffs)

**Soiling Fee**

A fee of £50 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	£2.90	£3.20	10.34%	£4.50	£5.00	11.11%	£9.30	£10.40	11.83%
Tariff 2	£3.50	£3.80	8.57%	£5.30	£5.80	9.43%	£10.70	£11.80	10.28%
Tariff 3	£4.60	£5.30	15.22%	£6.70	£7.80	16.42%	£13.00	£15.30	17.69%
Tariff 4	£3.50	£3.90	11.43%	£5.50	£6.10	10.91%	£11.50	£12.70	10.43%
Tariff 5	£4.00	£4.50	12.50%	£6.10	£6.90	13.11%	£12.40	£14.10	13.71%
Tariff 6	£5.40	£6.60	22.22%	£8.00	£9.60	20.00%	£15.80	£18.50	17.09%