

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services

Licensing Committee – 31 October 2012

**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. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that the various proposals be considered and determined by the Committee following which:-

- (a) that officers be authorised to arrange for the advertisement of the proposed fares and charges;
- (b) that it be noted that if representations or objections to the proposal are received, a further report on the matter would require to be considered by the Committee; and
- (c) that should no objections or representations be received in relation to the proposal, authority be delegated to the Head of Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Chair of the Licensing Committee, to conclude the review without the requirement for the Committee to consider a further report on the matter.

3. Background

- 3.1** In terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act, 1982 licensing authorities are required to fix the scales for taxi fares and related charges at intervals not exceeding 18 months from the date on which the scales came into effect.
- 3.2** The fares and charges which are applicable to taxis operating within the Clydebank Taxi Licensing Zone have been in effect since 21 August 2008.
- 3.3** When the review of taxi fares and charges were considered in 2011, Members decided to retain the existing tariff structure having consulted with the taxi

trade.

- 3.4** The current fares and charges relating to the Clydebank Taxi Zone, which have been in effect since 13 October 2011, are detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** A letter was sent to Mr. C. Murray, General Secretary, Clydebank Public Hire Association on 31 August, 2012 concerning the requirement to review scales and requesting the views of the Association.
- 4.2** A letter was also sent to Clydebank Taxis Operators Liaison Group on 30 August, 2012 concerning the requirement to review scales and requesting the views of the Liaison Group.
- 4.3** A response was received from Mr. Gourlay on 28 September 2012 indicating that the Clydebank Public Hire Association were not in favour of requesting an increase in the taxi scales at this moment in time.
- 4.4** A response was received from Clydebank Taxis on behalf of the Clydebank Taxis Operators Liaison Group on 28 September 2012 proposing an increase in the flag fall for all tariffs of 30p.
- 4.5** A separate response was received by way of pro forma letter from 5 individual taxi operators who are not represented by either the Clydebank Public Hire Association or the Clydebank Taxis Operators Liaison Group on 28 September 2012 proposing an increase in the flag fall of 30p for all tariffs.
- 4.6** An individual taxi operator, Mr. Kenneth McCann who is also not represented by either the Clydebank Public Hire Association or the Clydebank Taxis Operators Liaison Group submitted a proposal on 27 September 2012 requesting the tariff structure in the Clydebank Taxi Licensing Zone be identical to the tariff structure approved by Glasgow City Council.
- 4.7** 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 publish the proposed scales in a newspaper circulating in their area setting out the proposed scales, explaining the effect of the proposed scales and proposing a date on which the proposed scales are to come into 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.

4.8 It should be noted that if representations or objections to the proposals are received, a further report on the matter would require to be considered by the Committee. In addition, 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.

5. People Implications

5.1 There are no personnel issues.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications

7. Risk Analysis

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

8. Equalities, Health & Humans Rights Impact Assessment

8.1 No impact assessment is required because this report does not involve any change to policies or services or financial decisions.

9. Strategic Assessment

9.1 In terms of the Council's Strategic Priorities, the purpose of licensing is to protect the welfare of the community, including vulnerable people..

Head of Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services

Date: 28/9/2012

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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. C. Murray dated 1 February 2011.
2. Letter to Clydebank Taxis Operators Liaison Group dated 1 February 2011.
3. Email from Mr. B Gourlay dated 28 September 2012.
4. Letter from Clydebank Taxis dated 28 September 2012.
5. Letters from Clydebank Taxi Operators dated 27 September 2012.
6. Letter from Mr. Kenneth McCann dated 27 September 2012.
7. Letter to Mr. C. Murray dated 12 October 2012.
8. Letter to Clydebank Taxis Operators Liaison Group dated 12 October 2012.

Wards Affected: N/A.

	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%