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Council Building  
2 High Street  
Perth  
PH1 5PH

30/03/2022

A virtual meeting of **Licensing Committee** will be held on **Thursday, 07 April 2022** at **10:00**.

If you have any queries please contact Committee Services on (01738) 475000 or email [Committee@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:Committee@pkc.gov.uk).

**THOMAS GLEN**  
Chief Executive

***Those attending the meeting are requested to ensure that all notifications are silent on their device and other devices are in silent mode.***

***Please note that the meeting will be broadcast online and recorded. The recording will be publicly available on the Council's website following the meeting.***

**Members:**

Councillor Chris Ahern (Convener)  
Councillor David Illingworth (Vice-Convener)  
Councillor Kathleen Baird  
Councillor Bob Brawn  
Councillor Rhona Brock  
Councillor Roz McCall  
Councillor Andrew Parrott  
Councillor John Rebbeck  
Councillor Willie Robertson  
Councillor Fiona Sarwar  
Councillor Colin Stewart  
Councillor Mike Williamson



**Licensing Committee**

**Thursday, 07 April 2022**

**AGENDA**

***MEMBERS ARE REMINDED OF THEIR OBLIGATION TO DECLARE ANY FINANCIAL OR NON-FINANCIAL INTEREST WHICH THEY MAY HAVE IN ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCILLORS' CODE OF CONDUCT.***

**1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**3 MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE OF 24 FEBRUARY 2022 FOR APPROVAL 5 - 6**  
(copy herewith)

**4 CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 - TAXI FARE REVIEW 7 - 14**  
Report by Head of Legal and Governance Services (copy herewith 22/70)

***IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS SHOULD BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM(S) IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WHICH IS EXEMPT IN TERMS OF SCHEDULE 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973***

**P1 GRANT OF SKIN PIERCING AND TATTOOING LICENCE - SP114**

**P2 GRANT OF TAXI / PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVER LICENCE - TD2090**

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## LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Licensing Committee held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Thursday 24 February 2021 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors C Ahern (Convener), K Baird, B Brawn, R Brock D Illingworth, R McCall, A Parrott, J Rebbeck, C Stewart and M Williamson.

In Attendance: D Gilkison, M McLaren, S Michie and D Williams (all Corporate and Democratic Services); and I MacDonald (HKZ Services).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors W Robertson and F Sarwar.

Councillor C Ahern (Convener), Presiding.

### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Convener welcomed all present to the meeting. Apologies for absence were noted as above.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

### 3. MINUTES

The Minute of Meeting of the Licensing Committee of 7 October 2021 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

With regards to Item P3 of the minute, Grant of Window Cleaner Licence No. WC359, Councillor Brock raised a query as to the status of this application, as the minute had noted it was to be deferred and brought back to the next meeting of the Licensing Committee. S Michie advised members that this application had now been withdrawn by the Applicant.

### 4. SURVEY OF UNMET DEMAND

There was submitted a report by Head of Legal and Governance outlining the findings of a recent survey of unmet demand for taxis in Perth and Blairgowrie, completed by LVSA (Licensed Vehicle Surveys & Assessment).

I MacDonald, HKZ Services Ltd. was in attendance to answer questions from members.

#### **Resolved:**

The Committee:

- (i) Noted the findings of the survey carried out by HKZ Services Ltd, trading as LVSA.

- (ii) Agreed the current limit of 70 taxi operator licences in Perth be increased to 80.
- (iii) Agreed that the additional 5 new licenses should have a condition added to ensure that the vehicles associated with the licences are Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles for the duration of the licences.
- (iv) Agreed that the additional 5 new licences be awarded by means of lottery or draw.
- (v) Agreed that the current limit of 12 taxi operator licences for Blairgowrie be removed with immediate effect.
- (vi) Agreed that any new taxi licences granted for Blairgowrie should have an additional condition added to ensure that the vehicles associated with the licences are Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles for the duration of the licences.

# **PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**

## **Licensing Committee**

**7 April 2022**

### **Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 – Taxi Fare Review**

#### **Report by Head of Legal and Governance Services (22/70)**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The Council is required to review the scales of fares for Taxis in this area at intervals of not more than 18 months. This report outlines the findings of the most recent review and proposes that there be an increase in fares.

#### **1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES**

- 1.1 In terms of Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the Council is required to set taxi fares and scales and keep these under review. The existing scale has not increased since 2011. The last review was concluded in January 2020.
- 1.2 The 1982 sets out the process to be followed when carrying out a review. That process was commenced in January 2022 which was later than planned. This was as a result of ongoing workload challenges within the licensing team as a result of covid 19, but also due to staff resources being diverted towards the processing of covid support grants for taxi drivers and taxi operators in Summer 2021, which was considered to a priority. In January 2022, all individual operators and organisations representing, or appearing to be, representative of the operators of taxis were consulted in relation to proposals for a fare increase. Since January 2022, staff resources have been diverted again to processing further, unexpected, round of covid support grants which has again unavoidably delayed the work on the review.
- 1.3 Ninety-nine operators with meters fitted in their vehicles were provided with four options to choose from; an increase of 5%, 7% or 10% or no increase. Two of those who responded wished the fares to be increased by 5%; three wished the fares to be increased by 7%; sixty eight wished an increase of 10% and two wished the tariffs to remain unchanged. There were 24 operators who did not respond.
- 1.4 As the Committee is aware, the Council operates 3 Tariffs. These provide for increasing rates from Tariff 1 to Tariff 3. Tariff 1 applies from 0630 hours until 2300 hours and for the first 880 yards of a journey with certain further provisos. Tariff 2 applies between 2300 hours and 0630 hours, again with provisos. Tariff 3 applies during the Christmas and New Year periods also with provisos.

- 1.5 As there has been no increase in the Tariffs since 2011 and with increased costs in fuel and associated running costs, it is proposed that the Licensing Committee consider increasing the Tariffs to take account of these ongoing costs.
- 1.6 Operators were asked for other comments and several operators expressed an interest that they wished the Taxi Fare Review process to be reformed in line with that of another Council which operates several tariffs, one of which allows operators to charge more for upwards of 5 passengers. A comprehensive review of the Taxi Fare tariffs would require to be commissioned externally, with associated costs being met from operator fees. Officers will give further consideration to this proposal and engage further with operators and revert back to Committee with a further report in due course, should a comprehensive review be considered necessary.
- 1.7 A small number of operators made other suggestions including that tariffs be rounded up to the nearest 10 pence to save giving out small change; that the soiling charge be increased to £50.00 and that Tariff 2 commence earlier in the evening.
- 1.8 Before any new scale of fares and other charges can come into force the council must advertise any new proposed scale in the local press to give an opportunity for public representations. The notice must also specify the date on which it is proposed that the tariff shall take effect, which must take account of the period for representations and for appeals to the Traffic Commissioners. It is therefore suggested that the proposed date of coming into effect should be approximately 6 weeks after the date of advertising. Following the coming into effect of the tariff, all operators would be advised of the changes and the date on which the change comes into effect.

## **2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 The majority of the Operators who responded to the consultation indicated a preference for an increase in the fares by 10% and it is proposed that the majority view be accepted.
- 2.2 It is proposed that the scale of fares be advertised in the local press and that interested parties are invited to respond within one month of the advertisement. Any responses would then be considered at the next available Licensing Committee meeting.
- 2.3 It is proposed that if no representations are received, the scale of fares and existing Tariffs are increased by 10%. This would remain in place until a further review is carried out within the next 18 months.

## **3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 3.1 The consultation undertaken in relation to the review of taxi fares indicated that there is a strong preference to increase the scale of fares by 10%. It is recommended that the Committee:



- (i) Agrees that the current scale of fares be increased by 10% rounded up to the nearest 10 pence.
- (ii) Agrees that the scale of fares be advertised in the local press and that interested parties are invited to respond within one month of the advertisement and any responses be considered at the next available Licensing Committee meeting.
- (iii) Agrees that if no representations are received after advertising, the new scale of fees commence from a date specified by the Head of Legal and Governance Services in the advertisement, that date to be approximately six weeks after the date of the advertisement.

<b>Author(s)</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>
Debra Gilkison	Licensing Manager	dgilkison@pkc.gov.uk

#### **Approved**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Date</b>
Sarah Rodger	Legal Manager	9 March 2022

## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes / None</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	<b>Yes</b>
Corporate Plan	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	<b>None</b>
Workforce	<b>None</b>
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	<b>None</b>
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	<b>None</b>
Strategic Environmental Assessment	<b>None</b>
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	<b>None</b>
Legal and Governance	<b>None</b>
Risk	<b>None</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	<b>None</b>
External	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	<b>None</b>

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 Increasing the current fare structure for the hire of Taxis and Private Hire vehicles will promote a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy by allowing affordable travel for members of the community. Equally it will support people to lead independent, healthy and active lives.

#### Corporate Plan

- 1.2 Offering an affordable travel option will promote an inclusive economy and support people to lead independent lives. It will give access to commercial and leisure venues throughout the region to the benefit of all.

### 2. Resource Implications

#### Financial

- 2.1 Not applicable

#### Workforce

- 2.2 Not applicable

### 3. Assessments

#### Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

The proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) and are not considered to be relevant

#### Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 Not applicable

### 4. Consultation

#### Internal

- 4.1 Not applicable

#### External

- 4.2 All Operators of Taxis, Private Hire vehicles and organisations appearing to be, or to be representative of, the operators of taxis were consulted.

### 5. Communication

Not applicable

## 2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Not applicable

## 3. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Scale of Taxi Fares and proposals sent to all metered operators.

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion, only a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01738 475000.

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**Current Tariffs – For a passenger to travel a 2-mile journey****Tariff 1 = £5.40 Tariff 2 = £6.80 Tariff 3 = £8.10**

Tariff 1 - £3.00 for 880 yards

Tariff 2 - £3.80 for 880 yards

Tariff 3 - £4.50 for 880 yards

**Mileage Rate**

Tariff 1 – 10p for 110 yards

Tariff 2 – 10p for 88 yards

Tariff 3 – 10p for 74 yards

**Waiting Time**

Tariff 1 – 20p per minute

Tariff 2 – 25p per minute

Tariff 3 – 30p per minute

£37.50 Soiling Charge

**Proposal A (5% increase) - For a passenger to travel a 2-mile journey Tariff 1 = £5.79 Tariff 2 = £7.29 Tariff 3 = £8.68**

Tariff 1 - £3.15 for 880 yards

Tariff 2 - £3.99 for 880 yards

Tariff 3 - £4.72 for 880 yards

**Mileage Rate**

Tariff 1 – 11p for 110 yards

Tariff 2 – 11p for 88 yards

Tariff 3 – 11p for 74 yards

**Waiting Time**

Tariff 1 – 21p per minute

Tariff 2 – 26p per minute

Tariff 3 – 31p per minute

Soiling charge £40.00

**Proposal option B (7% increase) - For a passenger to travel a 2-mile journey Tariff 1 = £5.85 Tariff 2 = £7.37 Tariff 3 = £8.77**

Tariff 1 - £3.21 for 880 yards

Tariff 2 - £4.07 for 880 yards

Tariff 3 - £4.81 for 880 yards

**Mileage Rate**

Tariff 1 – 11p for 110 yards

Tariff 2 – 11p for 88 yards

Tariff 3 – 11p for 74 yards

**Waiting Time**

Tariff 1 – 22p per minute

Tariff 2 – 27p per minute

Tariff 3 – 32p per minute

Soiling charge £40.00

**Proposal option C (10% increase) - For a passenger to travel a 2-mile journey****Tariff 1 = £5.94 Tariff 2 = £7.48 Tariff 3 = £8.91**

Tariff 1 - £3.30 for 880 yards

Tariff 2 - £4.18 for 880 yards

Tariff 3 - £4.95 for 880 yards

**Mileage Rate**

Tariff 1 – 11p for 110 yards

Tariff 2 – 11p for 88 yards

Tariff 3 – 11p for 74 yards

**Waiting Time**

Tariff 1 – 22p per minute

Tariff 2 – 27p per minute

Tariff 3 – 32p per minute

Soiling charge £40.00

**Proposal option D – No increase in tariff rate**