

ANGUS COUNCIL

CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE – 28 FEBRUARY 2013

TAXI FARES REVIEW

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report relates to the proposed review of the taxi fare structure for Angus and representation received following public advertisement of the proposed new scales.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) note that this Committee, at its meeting on 15 November 2012, determined to amend the current fare structure for the hire of taxis and for all other charges in connection with the hire of taxis;
- (ii) note that the proposed amended fare structure was published in a newspaper circulating in this area;
- (iii) note that three representations were received in respect of the proposed amended fare structure;
- (iv) note that, prior to implementing any proposed amended fare structure, the Committee is legally obliged to consider the terms of any representations received; and
- (iv) determine whether, in light of the representations received, the Committee would wish to confirm its decision on 15 November 2012 to amend the current fare structure for the hire of taxis and for all other charges in connection with the hire of taxis, or propose an amended fare structure, which will require to be re-advertised.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 This Committee, at its meeting on 15 November 2012, considered Report No 35/13 by the Director of Corporate Services in respect of the review of taxi fares in the Angus Area. For completeness, copies of the proposals received and a summary of the effect of those proposals are attached as [Appendix 1](#) hereto. In respect of that report, the Committee determined as follows:-

“The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve option 2 as proposed by B Forbes, Carnoustie, and detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (ii) to delegate authority to the Head of Law and Administration to implement the new fare structure as appended to the Report (Appendix I to this minute) as soon as possible, and in consultation with Tayside Police, in the event that no representations were received within one month of the date of advertising of the adopted option; and
- (iii) to note that any recommended increase represented a maximum fare chargeable by taxi operators and was not to be regarded as a compulsory fare.”

2.2 In accordance with the terms of this decision, the proposed amended fare structure was published in a newspaper circulating in this area on 7 December 2012. Representations were

invited to be received by 8 January 2013. Three representations were received and these are attached as [Appendix 2](#) hereto.

- 2.3 Report No 35/13 was submitted to this Committee at its meeting on 17 January 2013. Consideration of this matter was deferred in order to clarify the full extent and nature of the proposals received.
- 2.4 When this Committee considered this matter, at its meeting on 17 January 2013, representatives of the trade attended and made comments to the Committee. One of the comments made was to the effect that the proposed increase related only to Tariffs 1 and 2 and not Tariffs 3 and 4. Option 2A in Appendices 1 and 2 show the proposal agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 15 November 2012 with a broadly similar increase to the increase applied to Tariffs 1 and 2 applied to Tariffs 3 and 4.
- 2.5 Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 provides that, prior to implementing any proposed amended fare structure, the Committee is legally obliged to consider the terms of any representations received. Accordingly, the Committee is invited to consider the representations received and determine whether, in light of the representations received, the Committee would wish to confirm its decision on 15 November 2012 to amend the current fare structure for the hire of taxis and for all other charges in connection with the hire of taxis, or propose an amended fare structure. Committee is asked to note that, if it determines to propose an amended fare structure, then such amended fare structure will be required to be advertised in a newspaper circulating in the area and invite representations to be lodged in writing within a period of one month after the date of the first publication. Any representations received will require to be considered by the Committee prior to confirming any new fee structure.
- 2.6 The persons who have made representations in respect of this matter have received a copy of this report and have been invited to attend before the Committee and address it on the terms of their representations.
- 2.7 Any person who operates a taxi in an area for which taxi fares have been fixed, or any person or organisation appearing to the traffic commissioner to be representative of such taxi operators may, within 14 days of notice being given of the review of taxi fares, appeal against those scales to the traffic commissioner for the Scottish Traffic Area as constituted for the purpose of the Public Passenger Vehicles Act 1981.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed fare review will have no financial implications for the Council.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS

There are no human rights implications in connection with this report.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment is not required.

6. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Head of Finance and Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in connection with this report.

**COLIN MCMAHON
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.