

EX32. Review of Taxi Fare Scales and Other Charges

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which proposed to increase the fare scale used by all taxi operators licenced by the Council.

The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 imposed a duty on all Councils to fix, from time to time, the maximum charges for the hire of taxis. There had been several reviews in recent years but the last increase in the tariff was introduced in October 2013.

Before fixing any scales or undertaking such a review, the Council must:-

- consult with persons or organisations appearing to them to be, or be representative of, the operators of taxis operating within their area;
- give notice of their intention by advertisement in a newspaper in its area stating, (a) the general effect of the proposals and the date when they propose that its decision will take effect; and (b) that any person may lodge written representations with respect to the proposals within a period of one month after the date of the first publication of the notice, and
- consider any such representations duly lodged.

The taxi forum was identified as being representative of operators of taxis and was invited to make representation in respect of the tariff. The forum recommended that there be a 50p increase on the flag fall with an increase in the running mile of between 10% and 20%. The following issues were highlighted in reference to the requirement for an increased fare:-

- increasing fuel costs
- increasing insurance costs
- increasing maintenance costs
- increased capital costs as a result of Council policy that replacement taxi/private hire car vehicles must be no older than 3 years
- to allow greater investment in technology

When comparing the cost of a 2 mile journey across all local authorities in Scotland under the current tariff rate Falkirk was the lowest. It was proposed that the fare scales be increased by 50p on the flag fall and 10% on the running mile. The proposed rates would place Falkirk 22 out of 32 local authorities for a two mile journey.

Decision

The Executive agreed to:-

- (1) the proposed changes to the existing Taxi fares and scales; and**
- (2) instruct the Chief Governance Officer to advertise the fare scales and charges to take effect from midnight on 31 August 2018 and,**

- (a) In the event of any written representations being received in respect of the published proposals, a further report will be submitted to the Executive to allow them to be considered and,**
- (b) In the event that no written representations are received the proposals will be held as confirmed and formally notified to the consultees.**