

## **EX68. Review of Taxi Fare Scales and Other Charges**

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Transformation, Communities & Corporate Services which detailed the responses received to the taxi fare scales consultation. The Executive had agreed, at its meeting on 22 August 2023, changes in the current taxi fare scales and charges. The Executive agreed that should any representations be made then these should be considered at its October meeting to inform a final decision being taken.

In accordance with the legislation, the decision was advertised in the local newspaper and subject to a 4-week consultation. In addition, and to maximise the scope of the consultation, it was also published on the Council's website, and all licensed operators were emailed with a copy of the report considered by the Executive.

There were 7 trade responses received in relation to the proposed changes to the taxi fares and scales. The changes to the taxi fares and scales had been proposed by the Taxi Forum trade representatives. Following on from the decision of the Executive in August, the Taxi Forum trade representative who had proposed the introduction of a specific festive tariff, contacted the Licensing section to advise that the suggested rate was double time and not time and a half as detailed in the report.

This was checked and was an oversight by the officer. Replacing public holidays with a slightly enhanced tariff (time and a half) over the festive period would not encourage a greater number of drivers to operate over the festive period. The intended double time was considered sufficiently attractive and may result in greater availability of taxis during a period when public transport could be limited.

A revised tariff table with details of the revised festive tariff was provided as an appendix to the report.

Officers had carefully considered the comments received and developed responses. The introduction of a festive tariff rate at double time would encourage greater numbers of drivers to operate during the festive period and provide a much-needed service to the public. It was noted however, that any increase may still not encourage some drivers to operate at this time, as was noted in a comment received. The soilage charge was a substantial increase on the current charge, however the new charge was intended to act as a deterrent and as a reasonable charge to a driver that may lose an entire shift if the taxi must stop operating until professionally valeted.

### **Decision**

**The Executive agreed the:-**

- (1) taxi fare scale and other charges changes previously considered, and**
- (2) revised festive tariff rate.**