

## **EX42. Review of Taxi Fare Scales and other Charges**

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing the responses received to the taxi fare scales consultation and proposing that there would be no increase in the taxi fare scale.

The Executive agreed at its meeting of 18 June 2019 (refEX28) to maintain the current taxi fare scales and charges at their current levels. In accordance with the legislation this was subject to a 4 week public consultation.

There were six responses which were appended to the report and categorised into the following groups:-

### In Favour of Increased Charges:-

- One respondent suggested that the initial flag fall should be increased from £2.50 to £3, in line with Stirling Council.
- Another respondent suggested that a cost of living increase of 6% should be applied. They also suggested smaller more frequent increases to avoid a substantial increase every five years. In addition they referred to the current age policy applicable to taxi and private hire cars and said this should be taken into account along with future trend towards electric vehicles.

### In Favour of Reduced charges

- One respondent suggested that there should be a slight decrease as the charges were expensive for those who rely on public services such as bus or taxi.
- Another respondent suggested a reduction in the fare level to encourage more people to use the service.

The comments had been carefully considered and the following responses made:-

### Increased charges

The taxi trade enjoyed a substantial increase in fares and charges less than a year ago. A further increase at this time is premature and without justification. This view is also held by the Taxi Forum.

### Reduced charges

The suggestion to decrease taxi fares and charges is not supported. The available evidence and the cost of operating taxis would not justify a decrease. At the current fare levels Falkirk is placed 22nd out of the 32 local authorities.

## **Decision**

**The Executive agreed to:-**

- (1) maintain the taxi fares levels and charges at their existing levels, and**

- (2) instruct the Director of Corporate and Housing Services to notify the consultees.**