

EX26. Review of Taxi Fare Scales and Other Charges

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which provided details on the statutory requirement to review the taxi tariff and outlined the views of the Taxi Forum and other members of the taxi trade.

Fares and charges were last increased at the meeting of the Executive on 12 June 2018 and came into effect on 1 October 2018.

The impact of Coronavirus and the subsequent lockdowns had undoubtedly had a significant effect on the taxi trade with the formerly reliable customer/business base disappearing. Although the trade had been supported by grants from the Scottish Government in 2021, not all drivers and operators fell within the criteria to benefit from this.

The Taxi Forum was identified as comprising persons who were representative of operators of taxis, and they were invited to make comment in respect of the taxi tariff at a meeting in March 2021. The Forum was not in favour of any increase in the taxi tariff. The Forum felt that the pandemic had suppressed a lot of business and any increase in fares might have a further adverse effect on business.

The Licensing Section also consulted approximately 200 operators by e-mail to seek their views on the tariff. Eleven responses were received. Six responses were in favour of no change and five supported an increase of some level.

In considering whether the current tariff structure should be changed, regard was given to the trend in fuel prices. The most recent information showed that diesel was, on average, the same price per litre and petrol 1p per litre higher than when the last tariff review was concluded in October 2019. Car insurance premium data showed that the average fully comprehensive policy in the first quarter of 2021 was £73, cheaper than in the last three months of 2020. In light of this information, and the responses received the report recommended that, on balance, no increase should be proposed this year.

Decision

The Executive agreed to:-

- (1) adopt an unchanged tariff, and**
- (2) instruct the Chief Governance Officer to advertise the fare scales and charges to take effect from midnight on 1 October 2021 and,**
 - (a) In the event of any written representations being received in respect of the published proposals, a further report would be submitted to the Executive to allow them to be considered, and**

- (b) If no written representations were received the proposals would be held as confirmed and formally notified to the consultees.**