

Item: 3

Licensing Committee: 9 March 2023.

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

Review of Fares and Charges in Respect of Taxi Services on Mainland Area of Orkney.

Report by Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions.

1. Purpose of Report

To report on the outcome of the consultation on the review of the scales of maximum fares and charges for all taxi services within the mainland area of Orkney, including the linked south isles.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That, on 1 December 2022, the Committee resolved that new scales proposed by taxi operators for maximum fares and charges from 1 May 2023 for all taxi services within the Mainland area of Orkney, including the linked south isles, be approved for public consultation.

2.2.

That the statutory consultation process was undertaken during the period 5 January to 6 February 2023, when the public were requested to submit representations in respect of the proposed scales, referred to at paragraph 2.1 above.

2.3.

That no representations were received from the public.

It is recommended:

2.4.

That the new scales for maximum fares and charges for all taxi services within the mainland area of Orkney, including the linked south isles, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, be approved, to take effect from 1 May 2023.

3. Introduction

3.1.

On 1 December 2022, when reviewing the scales of maximum fares and charges for taxi services, the Licensing Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

- That new scales proposed by taxi operators for maximum fares and charges for all taxi services be approved for public consultation.
- That the Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions should submit a report, to the meeting of the Committee to be held on 9 March 2023, on the outcome of the public consultation, referred to above, together with proposed scales for the maximum fares and charges for all taxi services within the mainland area of Orkney, including the linked south isles, to be effective from 1 May 2023.

3.2.

The Council publishes information about the setting of taxi fares, together with current scales, [here](#).

4. Public Consultation

4.1.

Particulars of the consultation process are detailed in section 7 below. These include a requirement that the licensing authority must publish the proposed scales in a newspaper circulating in its area as well as proposing a date on which the proposed scales are to come into effect.

4.2.

The new scales proposed by taxi operators, referred to at section 3.1 above, and attached as Appendix 1 to this report, include the following increases in tariffs:

- £0.50 in the rate for the first mile for each of Tariffs 1, 2 and 3.
- Touring rates for vehicles up to 4 passenger seats from £45 per hour to £50 per hour.
- Touring rates for vehicles up to 8 passenger seats from £67 per hour to £75 per hour.
- Charge for vehicle fouling from £120 to £150.

4.3.

The public consultation process was undertaken during the period from 5 January, when notice appeared in The Orcadian newspaper, to 6 February 2023 and no representations were received.

4.4.

Accordingly, it is recommended that the proposed scales for the maximum fares and charges for all taxi services within the mainland area of Orkney, including the linked south isles, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, be approved to take effect from 1 May 2023.

5. Corporate Governance

This report relates to the Council complying with its statutory duties as a Licensing Authority and therefore does not directly support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

6. Financial Implications

6.1.

The maximum fares and charges for taxi services were last altered with effect from 1 May 2021 when all tariffs were increased for the first mile travelled, for each mile thereafter and for the touring rate, by approximately 12% to 14%. The statutory review conducted since then in 2022 did not result in any changes to the tariffs in place from 1 May 2021.

6.2.

There are no direct financial implications to the Council arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. Legal Aspects

7.1.

The fares for the hire of taxis in any area and all other charges in connection with the hire of a taxi or with the arrangements for its hire shall not be greater than those fixed for that area in terms of sections 17 and 18 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (the Act).

7.2.

In terms of section 17(2) of the Act, the licensing authority must fix scales for the fares and all other charges in connection with the hire of a taxi, and review those scales, within 18 months beginning with the date on which the scales came into effect. In fixing scales, the licensing authority may alter fares or other charges or fix them at the same rates as previously.

7.3.

The statutory provisions referred to in section 7.2 above do not apply to fares and charges in respect of private hire cars which do not have a meter fitted. If a meter is fitted in a private hire car, the scales for maximum fares and charges apply.

7.4.

Before establishing any scales or carrying out any review the licensing authority must:

7.4.1.

Consult with persons or organisations appearing to be, or be representative of, the operators of taxis within their area.

7.4.2.

Following such consultation, review the existing scales and propose new scales (whether at altered rates or the same rates).

7.4.3.

Publish those proposed scales in a newspaper circulating in its area:

- Setting out the proposed rates.
- Explaining the effect of the proposed scales.
- Proposing a date on which the proposed scales are to come into effect.
- Stating that any person may make representations in writing until the relevant date.

7.4.4.

Consider any such representations.

7.5.

The relevant date referred to at section 7.4.3 above is a date specified by the licensing authority falling at least one month after the first publication by the authority of the proposed scales.

7.6.

After fixing scales, the licensing authority must set out and explain the effect of the scales as fixed and notify all persons or organisations appearing to be, or be representative of, the operators of taxis within their area of the date on which the scales as fixed are to come into effect and their rights of appeal to the Traffic Commissioner for Scotland.

7.7.

Following the fixing of scales, the licensing authority must publish them in a newspaper circulating in its area and specify in the advertisement the date on which the scales are to come into effect.

7.8.

The scales may come into effect no earlier than 7 days after the date on which they are published.

7.9.

The authority must give notice of the scales:

- Where no appeal has been lodged, as soon as practicable after the expiry of the period of 14 days within which appeals may be lodged.
- Where such an appeal has been lodged, as soon as practicable after the determination of the appeal.

7.10.

An appeal is determined on the date on which the appeal is abandoned or notice is given to the appellant of its disposal.

8. Contact Officers

Karen Greaves, Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions, extension 2202, Email karen.greaves@orkney.gov.uk.

Gavin Mitchell, Head of Legal and Governance, extension 2233, email gavin.mitchell@orkney.gov.uk.

Sheila Tulloch, Service Manager (Legal Services), extension 2213, Email sheila.tulloch@orkney.gov.uk.

Elaine Sinclair, Legal Clerk, extension 2232, email elaine.sinclair-hill@orkney.gov.uk.

9. Appendix

Appendix 1: Proposed scales for maximum fares and charges for all taxi services within the Mainland area of Orkney, including the linked south isles, to be effective from 1 May 2023.



Scales of Maximum Fares and Charges in respect of all Taxi Services in the Mainland Area of Orkney and Linked South Isles 2023/24.

Description.			
First mile.	Tariff 1. £5.00.	Tariff 2. £6.00.	Tariff 3. £7.00.
For each mile thereafter.	Tariff 1. £2.00.	Tariff 2. £2.40.	Tariff 3. £2.90.
Extras – all tariffs.		£2.00.	
Waiting time – all tariffs.		£27.00 per hour.	
Additional.			
Car fouling – all tariffs.		£150.00.	
Touring rate – all tariffs – vehicles licensed to carry up to 4 passengers.		£50.00 per hour.	
Touring rate – all tariffs – vehicles licensed to carry more than 4 passengers (maximum of 8 passengers).		£75.00 per hour.	
Vehicles carrying more than 4 passengers (maximum of 8 passengers).		All tariffs multiplied by 1.5.	
Tariff Information.			
Tariff 1.	normal operating times – 07:00 to 20:59 daily except as otherwise stated herein.		
Tariff 2.	21:00 to 06:59 daily. 21:00 Saturday until 06:59 Monday. 07:00 to 20:59 County Show Day.		
Tariff 3.	County Show Day 21:00 to 06:59 the next day. Christmas holiday 19:00 on 24 December to 06:59 on 27 December. New Year holiday 19:00 on 31 December to 06:59 on 3 January.		

Extras.	
(a)	carriage of animals (excluding assistance dogs).
(b)	journeys to and from Airport.
A limit of £2.00 for extras will apply.	
In addition, provision has been made for a supplementary booking charge of up to a maximum of £20.00 to compensate for the cost of the outward journey for hires which commence 3 miles or more away from the taxi or taxi base (whichever is the nearer) and the customer wishes to travel further away. This charge may only be demanded if the customer is informed of the amount of the charge at the time of booking.	
When a taxi (or a private hire car fitted with a taxi meter) is called but not used, a charge shall be allowed as if it had been occupied from the time it left the stance or garage.	
Car Fouling.	
Maximum of £150.00 payable by an offending passenger, where a vehicle requires to be removed from service for cleaning in order for it to be restored to a usable state and condition.	
Touring Rate.	
Vehicles licensed to carry up to 4 passengers – minimum charge of £50.00.	
Vehicles licensed to carry more than 4 passengers (maximum of 8 passengers) – minimum charge of £75.00.	
Agreed:	
Effective From:	