

**Licensing Committee****4 October 2013****Review of Taxi/ Private Hire Tariffs**

TP-08-13-F

Executive Manager Transport Planning**Development Services - Transport
Planning Service****1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 Shetland Islands Council, as Licensing Authority, is required in terms of section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 to review at intervals not less than 18 months the maximum tariffs that may be charged by taxis and private hire cars fitted with taxi meters.
- 1.2 This report sets out the revised table of tariffs proposed subsequent to consultation with the Shetland Taxi Owners Association for comment by the Committee and seeks the approval of the Committee to engage statutory consultees on the detail of the proposals.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee, subject to any comments, **RESOLVES** to approve the table of tariffs given in Appendix 1, for engaging in statutory consultation.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The last review of tariffs and procedures/ guidelines took place in September and October 2011.
- 3.2 This report fulfils the requirement to review Taxi/ Private Hire tariffs.
- 3.3 Appendix 1 details the proposed tariffs derived from consultation with the Shetland Taxi Owners Association (STOA).
- 3.4 The principal changes between the proposed and the current tariffs are: -

- 3.4.1 STOA would like to see the starting time for Rate 2 tariffs to be two hours earlier at 2000 compared to 2200 at the moment.
- 3.4.2 Cleaning charge to be raised to a minimum of £50 (from a minimum of £40) or the cost of cleaning materials plus £20 per hour if that is higher.
- 3.5 The STOA wishes all other tariffs to remain at current levels reflecting a view held by the STOA that transport costs must be affordable to the user.
- 3.6 If tariffs stay at the current level then Shetland would sit in the middle of the league table of tariffs throughout the UK. At £5.50 for a 2 mile journey on Tariff 1 this is similar to other island/ remote rural authorities such as Orkney (£5.20), Argyll & Bute (£5.50), Dumfries and Galloway (£5.50) but higher than Highland (£4.70) and the Western Isles (£4.20).

4.0 Implications

Strategic

- 4.1 Delivery On Corporate Priorities - Development of a sustainable public transport network is a priority in the Council's current Corporate Plan and features in the section "The transport services we most need" as well as "Healthy economy – strong communities".
- 4.2 Community /Stakeholder Issues - This will be determined through the consultation process.
- 4.3 Policy And/Or Delegated Authority - The Licensing Committee has delegated authority to discharge the functions of the Shetlands Islands Council. The Committee's authority is in accordance with the Licensing Scheme of Delegations attached as Appendix 2 to the Council's Scheme of Administration and Delegations.
- 4.4 Risk Management -If Taxi tariffs are set at too high a level it can impact on social inclusion with secondary effects such as increase risk of drink driving for example.

On the other hand, if tariffs are too low then operators can have difficulty in terms of financial sustainability with risks of falling standards of vehicles and services through to businesses failing resulting in inadequate provision to meet economic and social needs.

It is felt that the proposed tariffs adequately address these risks.

- 4.5 Equalities, Health And Human Rights - None.
- 4.6 Environmental - None.

Resources

- 4.7 Financial - None.

- 4.8 Legal - None.
- 4.9 Human Resources - None
- 4.10 Assets And Property - None

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 This report sets out the revised tariffs that the STOA wish to see included in the Council's policy on Taxi tariffs.
- 5.2 Subject to any comments by the Committee these tariffs will be the basis of consultation with statutory consultees, with a final report of the outcome of the consultation and tariffs presented to the Licensing Committee on 15 November 2013 for approval and subsequent implementation.

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27 September 2013

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Table of Proposed Changes to Taxi/ Private Hire Tariffs

END

	Shetland Islands Council Taxi Tariffs 2nd December 2013 to 31st May 2015
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		Current	Proposed
Rate 1: 0600-2159 - Current 0600-1959 - Proposed	For the first three quarters of a mile or part thereof	£3.50	£3.50
	For each additional quarter mile or part thereof	£0.40	£ 0.40
Rate 2: 2200-0559 - Current 2000-0559 - Proposed	For the first three quarters of a mile or part thereof	£4.00	£ 4.00
	For each additional quarter mile or part thereof	£0.50	£ 0.50
Christmas and New Year			
Rate 3 25 and 26 December 0600-2159 - Current 0600-1959 - Proposed	For the first three quarters of a mile or part thereof	£5.25	£ 5.25
	For each additional quarter mile or part thereof	£0.60	£ 0.60
Rate 4 1 and 2 January 0600-2159 - Current 0600-1959 - Proposed	For the first three quarters of a mile or part thereof	£6.00	£ 6.00
	For each additional quarter mile or part thereof	£0.75	£ 0.75
Waiting Time	£20.00 per hour or £0.40 per minute	£20.00 per hour or £0.40 per minute	
Cleaning Charge	If car is soiled by passenger	£40.00	£ 50.00
Passenger Surcharge	For the carriage of five or more passengers for the fifth and subsequent passengers	£2.00	£ 2.00
Excursion Rate <i>(Taxi operators/drivers may not describe themselves as a "tour guide" unless they are properly trained and certificated to do so)</i>	When offering an excursion trip or service to an individual, group, or acting on behalf of an agent.	Taxi operators/drivers must use the taximeter on all hires, including excursions. Taxi operators/drivers are free to offer a lesser amount than displayed on the meter, expressed in monetary terms or as a percentage of the maximum fare at the commencement of the hire. This may be done on an individual basis, or as part of an agreement between the taxi operators and the contracting agent.	

Notes to Taxi Operators and Drivers:

1. Shetland Islands Council Engineers shall be at Victoria Pier Taxi Rank from 08:00 to 17:00 on Monday 2nd December 2013 to install the new tariff in to your meters.
2. Any operator/driver, who is unavailable to attend the taxi rank on this date, shall make themselves available to the Shetland Islands Council Garage, at Gremista, as soon as possible thereafter.
3. All tariffs are inclusive of VAT.
4. It is an offence to offer a taxi for hire if the taximeter is not used.

Notes to Taxi and Private Hire Car Operators and Drivers:

1. Shetland Islands Council is in the process of producing a handbook for taxi and private hire car operators and drivers. This shall be supplied as part of the licensing fee. It will contain the latest version of the rules, plus other information relevant to taxi and private hire car operations.