

**REPORT TO: LICENSING COMMITTEE – 3 JUNE 2004**  
**REPORT ON: REVIEW OF TAXI FARES**  
**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION**  
**REPORT NO: 263-2004**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To review taxi fares following a request from the Dundee Taxi Association (DTA).

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that Committee approve the proposals of the DTA following consultation with the Director of Planning & Transportation amounting to 5.3% increase as displayed in paragraph 6.1.

**3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no financial implications of relevance to this report.

**4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Single occupancy of a taxi is not a sustainable mode of transport for ambulant individuals. However, multiple occupancy journeys to common destinations are more so.

**5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Taxis are a safe and personalised mode of public transport, often used by vulnerable or mobility impaired people.

**6 BACKGROUND**

6.1 Details of the Dundee Taxi Association proposals for an increase in taxi fares are as follows:

Current Fares (Fixed 1 July 2002)

Proposed Fares

- 1 For the first passenger carried:
  - a for a distance not exceeding 704 yards an initial charge of £2.00;
  - b for each additional  $\frac{1}{10}$  of a mile or part thereof, 10p;
  - c for an initial period of waiting time of 45 seconds, a charge of 10p; and
  - d for each additional period of waiting time of 45 seconds or part thereof, 10p.
- 2 For each passenger carried in excess of the first passenger a charge of 20p.

- 1 For the first passenger carried:
  - a for a distance not exceeding 704 yards an initial charge of £2.20;
  - b for each additional  $\frac{1}{5}$  of a mile or part thereof, 20p (no change);
  - c for an initial period of waiting time of 60 seconds, a charge of 20p; and
  - d for each additional period of waiting time of 60 seconds or part thereof, 20p.
- 2 No change.

<p>3 Luggage</p> <p>a for each child's carriage or perambulator, 10p; and</p> <p>b for each package carried in the luggage compartment, boot or rack, 10p (loose groceries and shopping exempt).</p> <p>4 For each hire commencing between 10.00pm and 6.00am a charge of 50p.</p> <p>5 For each hire from 6.00pm on 24 December until 6.00am on 27 December and from 6.00pm on 31 December until 6.00am on 3 January an additional charge of £1.00 (this charge is in addition to all other charges).</p> <p>6 Soiling of a taxi, no current charge.</p>	<p>3 Luggage</p> <p>a for each child's carriage or perambulator, no charge (now free); and</p> <p>b for each package carried in the luggage compartment, boot or rack, 20p (loose groceries and shopping exempt).</p> <p>4 For each hire commencing between 10.00pm and 6.00am a charge of 60p.</p> <p>5 For each hire from 6.00pm on 24 December until 6.00am on 27 December and from 6.00pm on 31 December until 6.00am on 3 January an additional charge of £1.60 (this charge is in addition to all other charges).</p> <p>6 Soiling of a taxi minimum of £25 to a maximum of £50.</p>
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- 6.2 The Director of Planning and Transportation has examined the proposals from the Dundee Taxi Association and would make the following comments:
- a Increases to the taxi fares have been mainly achieved over the last seven years by increasing the initial charge on the meter. Historically, the initial charge was increased on 1 June 1999 from £1.30 to £1.60 and was subsequently revised to £1.80 on 1 June 2000. In addition, the yardage was also reduced on 1 June 2000 from  $\frac{1}{8}$  of a mile to  $\frac{1}{10}$  of a mile at a charge of 10p. The final increase to the initial charge was on 1 July 2002 when the initial charge was increased to £2.00.
- 6.3 The justification for increasing the charge from effectively 80p per mile to £1.00 per mile after the initial charge was mainly due to the increasing cost of fuel. Petrol and diesel prices continued to escalate, peaking at approximately 86p a litre in March 2001. Fuel prices are however varying at present due to international pressures.
- 6.4 An agreement was received in principle with the Taxi Liaison Group in 2002 to link any future fares increases to the relevant Retail Price Index for Transport which includes movement in Fuel, Insurance, Vehicles, Wages etc. It should be noted that there were no fares increases applicable during 2003 and that the respective RPI increases for 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 were 2.24% and 1.94%. This equates to a 4.22% increase to be applied to the taxi fares structure. It should also be noted that agreement was also reached at the Taxi Liaison Group to apply the effective increase to the taxi testing fees.
- 6.5 The increase in waiting time to 60 seconds (a rise from 45 seconds at 10p) at 20p is to reflect a reasonable charge for those clients who break their journey for their needs and is not related to any delays in traffic congested areas.
- 6.6 With regard to the request to increase the unsociable charge from 50p to 60p for journeys commencing between 10.00pm and 6.00am, the Director of Planning and Transportation has no objections to the proposed increase. It should be noted that this represents an increase of 20% on the unsociable payment.

- 6.7 Whilst a rare but unpleasant occurrence, the interior of a taxi can be soiled by a passenger. If a taxi is "soiled" it must be put off service until properly cleaned before resuming service. Given the foregoing and representations made by the trade it is agreed to introduce a new charge for the "soiling of a taxi". The passenger(s)/hirer of the vehicle will be liable for a charge of a minimum of £25 to a maximum of £50.
- 6.8 The Director of Planning & Transportation welcomes the proposal of the DTA to remove any charge for a child's carriage or perambulator. Whilst a small amount of money this proposal indicates the willingness of the taxi trade to engage with council policies.
- 6.9 The Christmas and New Year Charge has been set as an extra charge of £1.00 since it was increased from 70p to £1.00 on 1 June 1999. The Dundee Taxi Owner's request to increase this additional cost from £1.00 to £1.60 is seen by the Director of Planning and Transportation to reflect the increased costs (income) for drivers in working over the festive period. Most employees get enhanced payments for working over such periods and it is considered equitable that the taxi trade is no exception.

## **7 CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

## **8 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 There are no background papers of relevance to this report.

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Mike Galloway  
Director of Planning & Transportation

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Iain Sherriff  
Head of Transportation

IFS/MHD/KM

2 June 2004

Dundee City Council  
Tayside House  
Dundee

**APPENDIX A**

	Current		Proposed	
Flag fall	2.00	704	2.20	704
Yardage	0.10	176	0.20	352
Waiting time (seconds)	0.10	45	0.20	60
Each extra passenger	0.20		0.20	
Child's carriage or perambulator	0.10		0.00	
Packages (to be defined)	0.10		0.20	
Unsocial hours	0.50		0.60	
Festive Increment	1.00		1.60	
Soiling of a taxi	0.00	0.00	Minimum charge of £25	
			Maximum charge of £50	