

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982
Taxis (and Private Hire Cars fitted with Taxi Meters) - Review of Fare
Tariff

Report by John Blair, Director, Resources

1 Background

Midlothian Taxi Owners' Association have requested an increase in the Fare Tariff. A Report has been circulated with the Agenda.

2 Consultation

Since the Agenda was issued, the Association have advised that they wish to pursue the first option - a 60 pence rise in the Tariff One and 50 pence in Tariff Two, ie **Appendix 3** in the initial report. They do not wish to vary the approach through reductions / increases in distance / price.

In support of that position, they state that:-

- (a) this is the first time in eight years that they have requested a fare rise;
- (b) the licence fees have risen by 2.5% annually for many years despite representations from the Association and some members of the Association consider that we should be increasing our fares annually to cover this;
- (c) the trade has had to absorb serious hikes in fuel prices;
- (d) there was also a massive rise in taxi insurance;
- (e) Road tax goes up virtually every year and maintenance costs also have spiralled.

They state that Edinburgh and East Lothian Taxis recently received a substantial increase in their fare tariff; and the latter have had a recent fare rise with a £3.00 drop at the start on their tariff. They consider that they are now quite far behind the surrounding areas regarding fare tariffs. There is attached a summary of Taxi Fares (**Annex 1**).

Conclusion

If the Committee is content to accept the explanation and assurances given by the Association and considers that the request is reasonable ie to increase, by 60 pence and 50 pence, in Tariffs One and Two, respectively, the Review could be concluded on that basis, subject to safeguarding the position as regards the potential receipt of other representations by 15 November 2015.

An examination of the effect of various levels of increase in the initial drop; and percentage increases across the ranges is being examined and can be developed if thought appropriate.

Recommendation

That the Committee consider the request on the basis of the submission that has been made; and if necessary, as indicated in the previous report, review the position.

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Director

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