

Protective Services Committee
5 September 1997

Irvine, 5 September 1997 - At a Meeting of the Taxi Fare Review Sub-Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Jack Carson, Thomas Barr, Thomas Morris and Richard Wilkinson

In Attendance

The Legal Services Manager and L. McHugh, Solicitor (Legal Services) and S Paxton, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Chair

Mr. Carson in the Chair

1. Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982: Taxi Fare Review

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager regarding the consultative procedure for the taxi fare review for 1997.

The Protective Services Committee on 14 August 1997 agreed (a) that a Taxi Fare Review Sub-Committee approve the proposed fare structure and meet the taxi owners in North Ayrshire; (b) that the proposed structure as agreed by the Sub-Committee be advertised for public consultation at the same time as consultations are being undertaken with Operators; and (c) that a further report be submitted to the Committee on 6 November 1997 on the proposed revised structure together with all responses received during the consultation process.

In terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the Licensing Authority is obliged to undertake reviews of taxi fares at maximum intervals of 18 months. All taxis must be fitted with a meter which has been calibrated to a fare scale operational in the area of each Licensing Authority, whereas private hire cars do not require the fitting of such a meter. The last taxi fare review took place in April 1996 and, in the past, any increases in the fare scale have been at the request of taxi operators.

The Legal Services Manager has submitted a report detailing the factors which have affected the operation of a motor vehicle over a twelve month period to April 1997 and the increases in public transport charges for the same period. This shows that the average costs of vehicle operation have increased by 5.5%, while public transport costs have increased by between 3% and 4%.

A consultation procedure has been established with regard to proceeding with the statutory fare review. The Licensing Authority must consult with the local taxi trade and the public before any new fare scale can be introduced. Although there are associations of taxi operators within North Ayrshire it is considered that they are not representative of all taxi operators within the Council's boundaries. Accordingly, individual operators, rather than associations, will be invited to attend a consultation meeting to consider the fare scale on 26 September 1997. All the taxi operators in North Ayrshire will be issued with a copy of the Legal Service's Managers report. Following that meeting, having considered the comments made by the taxi operators, the proposed fare scale will be issued for public consultation.

The Sub-Committee agreed (a) the report for submission to the meeting of taxi operators; and (b) to

meet the taxi operators on 26 September 1997 at 11.00 a.m. to consider their views in respect of the review.

The meeting ended at 2.25 p.m.