



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Licensing Committee

A meeting of the **Licensing Committee** of North Ayrshire Council will be held remotely on **Wednesday, 21 April 2021 at 10:00** to consider the undernoted business.

Arrangements in Terms of COVID-19 - Licensing (partially excluded)

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be held remotely in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003. As the business under consideration at the meeting is likely to necessitate the passing of a resolution to exclude from the meeting the press and public in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the meeting will not be live streamed/recorded for access by the public.

1 Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to give notice of any declarations of interest in respect of items of business on the Agenda.

2 Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 March 2021 will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copy enclosed).

3 Review and Fixing of Taxi Scales (Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, Sections 17 to 18A)

Submit report by the Head of Democratic Services on the Review and Fixing of Taxi Scales (copy enclosed).

4 Civic Government Scotland Act 1982 and other Licensing Statutes: Licensing Matters

Submit report by the Head of Democratic Services on hearings to be determined and applications for grant or renewal of licences and permits, all in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (copy enclosed).

5

Urgent Items

Any other items which the Chair considers to be urgent.

Licensing Committee Sederunt

Ronnie McNicol (Chair)
Todd Ferguson (Vice Chair)
Robert Barr
John Easdale
Scott Gallacher
Jean McClung
Davina McTiernan
Donald L. Reid
Angela Stephen
Vacancy

Chair:

Apologies:

Attending:

At a Meeting of the Licensing Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.00 a.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Ronnie McNicol, Todd Ferguson, Robert Barr, Jean McClung, Davina McTiernan, Donald L. Reid, and Angela Stephen.

In Attendance

W. O'Brien, Solicitor (Licensing), A. Toal, Administrative Assistant (Licensing), P. Brennan, Specialist Environmental Health Officer (Place) and H. Clancy, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also in Attendance

Inspector Alison Wilson and Sergeant Scott Barrie (Police Scotland).

Chair

Councillor McNicol in the Chair.

1. Chair Remarks

The Chair agreed, in terms of Standing Order 9.4, to vary the order of business to allow consideration of Agenda item 3.2 (Street Trader Operator's Licence: STL/O/516 Amendment & STL/O/518 (New): Ayrshire's Wee Fish Van) prior to Agenda item 3.1 (Skin Piercing and Tattoo Licence: SPTL/038: Alexander Nicholas Arbuckle), as the applicant was already in attendance in the virtual meeting lobby.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 February 2021 were confirmed and signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4. Exclusion of the Public

The Committee resolved, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting the press and the public, for Agenda Item 5 (Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and other Licensing Statutes: Licensing Matters) on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of Exempt Information as defined in Section 50J of, and Schedule 7A to, the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

The 'Exempt Information' concerned is information of the type described in one or more of Paragraphs 3, 6, 14 and 15 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act:

3. "Information relating to any particular applicant for, or recipient or former recipient of, any service provided by the authority."
6. "Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority)."
14. "Any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime."
15. "The identity of a Protected Informant" - where "Protected Informant" is defined in Part III as a person who informs the Local Authority about a past, present or future crime, breach of statutory duty, breach of planning control, or nuisance."

5. Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and other Licensing Statutes: Licensing Matters

Submitted report by the Head of Democratic Services on hearings to be determined and applications for the grant or renewal of licences, consents and permits, on hearings and on other matters, under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and other Licensing legislation.

Appendix A: Hearings

5.1 Street Trader Operator's Licence: STL/O/516 Amendment & STL/O/518 (New): Ayrshire's Wee Fish Van

The licence-holder and applicant, having been duly cited to attend, joined the meeting at this point.

The Solicitor (Licensing) set out the background to the Hearing as previously intimated in writing to the applicant. Thereafter the licence-holder and applicant addressed the Committee on the issues raised and responded to questions.

The licence-holder and applicant then withdrew to allow the Committee to deliberate. Thereafter the licence-holder and applicant re-joined the meeting, with the same Members and Officers present and in attendance, to hear the Committee's decision.

Decision

Having heard from the Licence-Holder and Applicant, the Committee agreed unanimously to treat the circumstances as justifying an exception to their Policy and:

- (1) In relation to the existing Licence STL/O/516: granted the Amendment requested, to the extent of changing Standard Condition C.3 ("Movement") to refer to "60 minutes" instead of "20 minutes", under Paragraph 9(2) of Schedule 1 to the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982;
- (2) In relation to the proposed Licence STL/O/518: amended their Policy in that case, so that the same change shall apply to the same Standard Condition (but apart from these two Licences, that Standard Condition shall continue to refer to "20 minutes");

- (3) that in relation to both Licences the Committee would review within one year whether or not the change should continue, or the Standard Condition should again refer to "20 minutes" or be differently worded.

The licence-holder and applicant left the meeting at this point.

5.2 Skin Piercing and Tattoo Licence: SPTL/038: Alexander Nicholas Arbuckle

The Committee was advised of a request from Police Scotland for the revocation/suspension of the licence in terms of Paragraph 11 of Schedule 1 to the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

The licence-holder, having been duly cited to attend, joined the meeting at this point. Representatives from Police Scotland and Environmental Health were also in attendance.

The representatives from Police Scotland and Environmental Health then addressed the Committee in respect of the revocation/suspension. Thereafter the licence-holder addressed the Committee on the issues raised and responded to questions.

The licence-holder and representatives from Police Scotland then withdrew to allow the Committee to deliberate. Thereafter representatives from Police Scotland re-joined the meeting, with the same Members and Officers present and in attendance, with the exception of the licence-holder, to hear the Committee's decision.

Decision

Councillor Barr, seconded by Councillor Ferguson, moved that the Committee suspend the licence with immediate effect for its whole unexpired duration until 28 February 2023 under Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, Schedule 1, Paragraph 11, on the basis that the license-holder is not a fit and proper person to hold the Licence (the ground in Paragraph 11(2)(a)), and consider recalling the suspension under Paragraph 11(6) once criminal proceedings have been concluded. There being no amendment the motion was declared carried, Councillor Reid dissenting.

The meeting ended at 11.55 a.m.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

21 April 2021

Licensing Committee

Title: **Review and Fixing of Taxi Scales (Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, Sections 17 to 18A)**

Purpose: To consider the taxi fare review.

Recommendation: That the Committee:
 (a) consider representations on the proposed Scales,
 (b) fix new Scales, and
 (c) set a date on which the new Scales will become effective.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 In terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the Council as Licensing Authority is required to review the maximum fares that Taxis operating within North Ayrshire may charge, and to set Scales. The 1982 Act requires that this should be within 18 months beginning with the date on which the scales came into effect. The current Fare Scales are Appendix A. These took effect on 22 July 2019, so in the normal course of events a further review would have taken place in 2020 and would have concluded around December 2020. Due to the Coronavirus Emergency and the time taken to establish 'virtual' meetings of the Committee to carry out the Trade consultation and to progress the Review, the process has been delayed.

1.2. The fares approved by the Council are maximum fares which may be charged. Operators are able to discount these rates if they wish. While it is obligatory to review fare levels periodically, there is no obligation to alter the existing fares. These Scales do not set the fare for journeys starting or ending outside North Ayrshire, so this fare should be agreed between driver and passenger before the journey starts. The Scales do not apply to Private Hire Cars unless the driver and passenger agree before the journey starts to charge by meter.

1.3. The Review procedure proceeds in Stages, set by the 1982 Act. The Council must:

- (a) consult with persons or organisations appearing to it to be, or to be representative of, the operators of taxis operating within its area (Section 17(4A)(a));
- (b) following such consultation, review the existing Scales, and propose new Scales (whether at altered rates or the same rates) (Section 17(4A)(b));

- (c) publish those proposed Scales in a newspaper circulating in its area, setting out the proposed Scales (there is a period of at least one month after publication in which any person may make representations in writing) (Section 17(4A)(c));
- (d) consider any such representations, and fix the new Scales (Section 17(4A)(d));
- (e) within 7 days give notice of the new Scales to taxi operators and trade organisations, and advise them of their right to Appeal. Within 14 days of that notice, an Appeal to the Traffic Commissioner may be made by any taxi operator or trade organisation (an Appeal postpones the operation of the new Scales); the Traffic Commissioner may decline to proceed with an appeal if he/she considers that the appellant's case is not representative of the view of a substantial proportion of the Operators of Taxis operating in the Council's area;
- (f) give newspaper notice to the public of the new Scales (if there is no appeal, after the 14-day appeal period; if there is an appeal, when it is abandoned or determined).

2. Background

2.1 The fare review process is now at Stage (d).

2.2. Earlier Stages were completed:

- Stage (a) (Trade Consultation): the Committee met Taxi operators on 3 February 2021. A Minute of that meeting is attached as Appendix B to this Report.
- Stage (b) (proposal of new scales): the Committee met on 10 February 2021, to review the existing Scales, and to propose new Scales (these are Appendix C).
- Stage (c) (newspaper publication of the proposed new Scales): this happened soon after, by advertisement in local newspapers. The proposals, and a summary of the procedure and of the public's right to comment is on the Council's website at:

<https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/business/licences-and-permits/taxi-licences/taxi-fares.aspx>

This included:

"The Council have not fixed the Scales. The draft is set out only for the purposes of discussion. If you have views about the draft the Committee want to hear from you."

There was also a post on the North Ayrshire Council Twitter feed:

"Do you use taxis or are you a local Taxi Operator? If so, make sure you have your say on the Taxi Fares in North Ayrshire! Visit our website for details on how to get involved tinyurl.com/1eo94ev5 and contact our Licensing Office by Wednesday 7 April 2021."

2.3. The matter is calling at the Committee again after the statutory consultation period has expired. Members' Background Papers will include copies of any representations received.

3. Proposals

3.1 The Committee should now

- (a) review the current Scales,
- (b) fix new Scales, and
- (c) decide the date when the new Scales will take effect. This date will then be the start of the 18-month period leading to the next Review.

3.2. In fixing Scales, the Committee should consider:

- (a) Government Guidance on how Licensing Authorities should approach Fare Reviews;
- (b) the current Scales;
- (c) general economic indicators;
- (d) the views of the Trade and any representations from the public.

3.3. The Committee should also consider the exceptional effects of the Coronavirus Emergency on both the Taxi Trade and the wider economy. There are at least four options (listed in no particular order of preference):

- (1) the Scales could remain unchanged from their 2019 values; if the Committee wished this, they should dispense with the requirement of the Licence conditions that operators have their meters recalibrated when the Fare Scales are fixed. This dispensation would relate only to the 2021 decision;
- (2) the Scales could be varied according to the proposed draft Scales adopted by the Licensing Committee on Wednesday 10 February 2021 and then advertised for public comment (Appendix C);
- (3) the Scales could be varied in some other way, for example by adopting parts of the proposed draft Scales and rejecting others (for example, the draft Scales propose double Tariff 1 fares on four days over the Christmas-New Year period - 25th December, 26th December, 1st January and 2nd January; a possibility might be to limit double fares to Christmas Day and New Year's Day, with the other two days having Tariff 2); for the purpose of discussion, the proposed Scales reflect this possibility (Appendix E);
- (4) as well as (3), the Committee might fix the Scales and direct the Clerk to begin another Fare Review in (say) 6 months' time, earlier than the usual 18-month interval between Fare Reviews;

There are other possibilities and it is open to participants in the Review process to propose them.

- (a) Government Guidance

- 3.4. The Government Guidance is in "Taxi and Private Hire Car Licensing: Best Practice for Licensing Authorities", Second Edition, April 2012, Paragraph 6.2. This adopts the guidance in Scottish Development Department Circular 25/1986. The relevant part of that is Paragraph 2.37:

"The Secretary of State expects that in fixing fares authorities will want to pay primary regard to the costs incurred by the trade, having regard to the capital costs. (including interest payments) of the vehicles, the costs of maintaining and replacing them to the standards required by the licensing authority, the costs of employing drivers, and the prevailing levels of wages and costs in related road transport industries. In the Secretary of State's view the public interest is better served by ensuring the maintenance of an adequate taxi service by giving the trade a fair return than by depressing fares for social reasons, however understandable. If fares are fixed at a level higher than the market can stand, the trade is free to reduce them."

(b) the current Scales

- 3.5. Appendix A is the Current Scales.

(c) general economic indicators

- 3.6. Appendix D ("Inflation Figures ('Consumer Price Index')") shows figures supplied by the Government's "Office of National Statistics" ("ONS"). The main index is the "Consumer Prices Index (All Items)" (CPI), but there are also many series of statistics which measure particular quantities. Following the Government Guidance quoted above, the Clerk has collected statistics which appear to be relevant to the Taxi Fare Review. That Appendix shows the CPI and also data for:

'PURCHASE OF VEHICLES'

'MOTORING EXPENDITURE: MAINTENANCE OF MOTOR VEHICLES'

'PETROL'

'DIESEL'

The ONS publishes regular updates on these statistics and that Appendix shows the most recent figures. To allow comparison between different times, ONS gives figures as indices, meaning that the figures are stated relative to a stated base year or month. The base year or month always has a value of 100, so other times have values which are greater or less than 100, to show how they compare with the base year or month. This means that the values at two points in time can be compared, for example at the start and end of the 18-month review period. The figures there are counted from when the current Scales took effect (the column headed 'START') and the most recent ONS figures are in the column headed 'END'.

- 3.7. It is open to anyone participating in the review process to suggest that the Licensing Committee should consider other factors.

(d) the views of the Trade and Public

- 3.8. Appendix B is the Minute of the Trade Consultation meeting. Where individuals (whether Operators or the general public) have made written representations, these will be copied in Members' background papers.

At the date of preparing this Report (13 April 2021) there were no representations from the general public.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 The Taxi fare structure has substantial implications for both the trade and the community. In addition, legal costs to the Licensing Authority may arise if the fare review becomes subject to an appeal to the Traffic Commissioner, which may affect future Licence fees.

Human Resources

4.2 None.

Legal

4.3 Possible appeal to the Traffic Commissioner in the event of dissatisfaction.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 None. An "Equality Impact Assessment" is not considered necessary. There are no socio-economic implications of the proposals.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 None.

Key Priorities

4.6 North Ayrshire Council has priorities for Aspiring Communities in the Council Plan 2019-2024. An effective licensing system, e.g. monitoring the 'fit and proper' status of hire-car drivers and the safety of their cars, helps achieve Priority Outcome: "North Ayrshire's residents and communities are safe".

Community Benefits

4.7 Not applicable, as the Report does not relate to tendering or procurement exercises.

5. Consultation

5.1 Trade Consultation has taken place and public consultation will follow the present meeting, followed by a Committee decision to fix Scales.

Andrew Fraser
Head of Democratic Services

For further information please contact **William O'Brien, Solicitor (Licensing)**, on **01294 324305**.

Background Papers

Appx A - CURRENT Fare Card from 2019-07-08 (GEN17 Fares)

Appx B - MINUTE of Taxi Trade Consultation meeting on 2021-02-03 (Stage (a) GEN17 Fares)

Appx C - DRAFT PROPOSED Taxi Fare Scales (adopted at Stage (b) 2021-02-10, then consulted on (GEN17 Fares)

Appx D - ECONOMIC INDICATORS (Office of National Statistics) (updated for Stage (d) mtg) (GEN17 Fares)

Appx E - DRAFT PROPOSED Taxi Fare Scales (for consideration at Stage (d), 2021-04-21 (GEN17 Fares)

North Ayrshire Council, Licensing Committee

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, Section 17 (Taxi Fares)

Minute of the Trade Consultation Meeting in the Review of Taxi Fare Scales held under Section 17(4A)(a) on Wednesday 3 February 2021, 10.00 a.m. (the meeting was held by video-conferencing).

Present:

Councillors from the Licensing Committee

Todd Ferguson (Vice-Convenor) in the Chair

Robert Barr

Donald L. Reid

Jean McClung

John Easdale

(Councillor Davina McTiernan was also on the meeting from 10.09, and heard the discussion, but was not able to join by video until after the meeting ended at 10.46)

Officers

Aileen Craig (Clerk to the Licensing Committee and Senior Manager, Legal Services) (AC)

William O'Brien, Solicitor (Licensing) (WOB)

Anne Toal, Administrative Assistant (Licensing Services) (AT)

Operators

Peter McGuinness (TL/212)

Malcolm McGregor (TL/081)

Bob Chalmers (TL/058)

Emails were also read out from the following:

Alan Mackie (TL/179)

Kevin Findlay (TL/102)

David McComb (TL/221, TL/226, TL/231)

Paul MacLaren (TL/109)

The Committee had a copy of the current Fare Card and also copies of emails from those other Operators.

Vice Convenor Ferguson

Welcomed all present and invited the Operators to give their views.

Peter McGuinness

He made proposals for a fare increase (these were stated in full during the meeting, and at WOB's request he also emailed them shortly after the meeting (the email is set out at the end of this Minute).

Tariff 1:

The flagfall (the first 3/4 mile) should increase from £2.90 to £3.20
The mileage charge of 10p per 1/19 mile should be increased to 10p per 1/20 mile.

Tariff 2:

The flagfall (the first 3/4 mile) should increase from £3.30 to £3.50.
The mileage should stay at 10p per 1/20 mile.

Double Fares

There should be double fares on 4 days:
25th December
26th December
1st January
2nd January

(instead of the current Tariff, which set double fares for only two days: 25th December and 1st January)

Christmas Eve and Hogmanay

The existing higher Tariff charged for Christmas Eve and Hogmanay (7 to 12) should be removed, but only if the double fare change from two days to 4 days was approved.

Tariff 2 Waiting

The current Tariff 2 waiting time should be change from 20 seconds to 25 seconds.

Zone boundary charge

This should be kept.

He understood that money is tight for everyone but the Trade needed an increase, to cover the costs of everything going up in the next 18 months, like insurance/fuel/garage bills/taxi tests/licence fees. Also bus fares and train fares will be increasing in March 2021.

He referred to Council decisions about Taxi Fares in recent years. Over the last 7 years the fare has only increased by 30p

Tariff 1

2014 Flagfall £2.60
2016 Flagfall £2.60
2017 Flagfall £2.80
2019 Flagfall £2.90

In the same time the mileage increased from 1/17 to 1/19.

Tariff 2

2014 Flagfall £3.00
2016 Flagfall £3.00
2017 Flagfall £3.20
2019 Flagfall £3.30

In the same time the mileage increased from 1/18 to 1/20.

He referred to the COVID grant scheme for Taxi Drivers, which paid £1,500. It cost him £700 for a 3-year Taxi Licence, and £800 for insurance, so that was the grant used up.

Bob Chalmers

He agreed with Peter McGuinness. If the Trade were not getting a rise in fares, this would be a pay cut.

Malcolm McGregor

He has been an operator 47 years. The Trade struggled. He agreed with Peter McGuinness, and had spoken to other operators who had the same view.

He said that the Trade had lost a third of its takings because of COVID.

The Boundary Charge (Zones) must be kept for single-car operators. TOAs would be OK.

Taking the Boundary Charge from the Scales would cost the Trade one-third of their earnings. They had to be paid for dead miles. A flagfall rise of 10p a year was not enough.

Emails from other Operators

WOB reminded the Committee that their background papers included 4 emails from operators who each said that they did not ask for a fare increase.

Mr. McGregor said these were "hidden emails" and he wanted to know who had sent them.

At the Vice-Convenor's request WOB read these out:

Alan Mackie

"With regards to the fare review my opinion would be to keep rates at the current tariff and review again in a year."

Kevin Findlay

"I don't think there should be any change to the taxi fares at the moment."

David McComb

"think we should leave it right now people are struggling at the moment and it is bad out there at the moment so it wood be better left alone at the moment"

Paul MacLaren

"Regarding the taxi fare scales review I would suggest that due to the downturn in trade due to covid 19 that there should be no change to the fare scale on this occasion."

Mr. McGregor said these were vague and that two of these people had full-time jobs as well as driving taxis. He said they were just saying "Don't put the fares up because I don't want it."

Peter McGuinness

He agreed and said that all 4 operators who had sent emails did school contracts. He himself did school contracts, but he also worked on the rank.

He said that if fares were not raised the operators would be on Universal Credit.

His son was out in his taxi for 8 hours recently, and earned only £17.80, excluding tips.

That was OK for people who had school contracts, but it wasn't fair on the driver who was on the ranks to 1.00 a.m..

He said that the people who had sent emails could not even be bothered to turn up today.

Bob Chalmers

He agreed. Prices were going up, there was inflation, the cost of licence renewal and insurance went up. The Trade had to have a pay rise.

When the Tariffs are changed, operators pay £20 to get their meters changed. An increase of only 10p is not enough. It is 18 months before they make up their money.

WOB explained that he would get Office of National Statistics data for the Committee.

Councillor Reid

He asked how an increase would affect the public?

Malcolm McGregor

He'd been driving for years. The public didn't say much when the fares changed. He didn't think the public would complain if the fares went up.

Bob Chalmers

He agreed, and commented that if the price of tyres went up, he just had to pay it.

Peter McGuinness

Money is tight for everyone. Passengers might grumble for a while if fares went up, but they'd just pay. His weekly shop at Tesco was £100, but next time it might be £140.

Malcolm McGregor

He'd spoken to Convenor McNicol and he had said that it would be OK to bring up other business, as well as Taxi Fares.

The matter he wanted to raise was the Council's policy of expecting cars to get inspections twice a year, instead of once a year, when the car reached 5 years old.

Peter McGuinness

He agreed. He'd not worked much over recent months, but still had had 1 MOT test, 1 Taxi Licence test, and two SPT tests.

Malcolm McGregor

He said that modern cars did not wear the way cars used to, so a 5-year old car might in fact be in good condition. He said the Council could get rid of some tests.

Councillor Easdale

He asked if the Council could use an MOT Certificate as an equivalent for one of the two tests?

Malcolm McGregor

He said that the Council saw the MOT Certificate anyway.

Councillor Barr

He said that this matter should be discussed further. The Committee should help the Trade.

WOB explained that the schedule for the Taxi Fare Review meant that it would go to the Committee Meeting next week (Wednesday 10 February 2021) and that the tight schedule meant that the inspection matter could not go to a Committee until the next meeting set for Wednesday 10 March 2021. He would ask other officers to look at the matter in the interval.

Bob Chalmers

One vehicle might only do 30,000 miles a year, while another vehicle (operated in 3 shifts, by a TOA) might do 110,000 miles a year.

Councillor McClung

She asked if the Council's testing schedule should be linked to mileage?

Malcolm McGregor

No, the owners can be trusted. No driver would drive an unsafe vehicle. He pointed out that the Taxi Inspector (Drew Robertson) is an ex-Police inspector.

Peter McGuinness

He said that busy companies have high mileages.

Vice Convenor Ferguson

He thanked everyone for their contributions. The meeting ended at 10.46 a.m..

Email from Peter McGuinness, sent to Licensing Office on 3 February 2021 10:54:

"My Proposal.

Tariff 1 £2.90 to £3.20 mileage from 1/19 to 1/20

Tariff 2 £3.30 to £3.50 keep mileage at 1/20.

Double fare 25th & 26th 1st & 2nd do away with the Christmas eve and hogmanay tariff from 7 to 12 (only if aproved to change the double fare to the extra 2 days.)

Change the waiting time from 20secs to 25secs.

Keep boundary charge as its to cover dead millage.

I understand money is tight for everyone but the trade needs an increase. To cover the costs of every thing going up in the next 18months like insurance/fuel/garage bills/taxi tests/licence fees. Also bus fares and train fares will be increasing in March.

Over the last 7 years the fare has only increased by 30p

Tariff 1

2014 £2.60

2016 £2.60

2017 £2.80

2019 £2.90

In the same time the mileage has went from 1/17 to 1/19

For a distance not exceeding 3/4 of a mile. Each additional mile. 1/17th to 1/19th over 7 years.

Tariff 2

2014 £3.00

2016 £3.00

2017 £3.20

2019 £3.30

In the same time the mileage has went from 1/18 to 1/20

For a distance not exceeding 3/4 of a mile. Each additional mile. 1/18th to 1/20th over 7 years.

Fare Card with effect from Monday 8th July 2019**Tariff 1 (Day): (Tariff 5 if more than 4 passengers are carried)**

All journeys starting or ending in the period 7.00am – 12.00pm (midnight) (except where Tariffs 2 or 3 apply):

For a distance not exceeding $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile (or waiting time not exceeding 10mins). £2.90

Each additional $\frac{1}{19}$ of a mile or additional waiting time of up to 20 seconds 10p

Tariff 2 (Nights, Sundays and during day across zones): (Tariff 6 if more than 4 passengers are carried)

All journeys (except where Tariff 3 applies)

- Starting or ending in the period 12.00pm (midnight) to 7.00am, or
- Starting or ending at any time on Sundays, or
- Starting or ending at any time on the following Public Holidays:
2 January, Good Friday, early May Bank Holiday, Spring Bank Holiday, Summer Bank Holiday, 30 November (St Andrew's Day) 26 December (Boxing Day). If a Bank Holiday is on a weekend, the following Monday is treated for this Tariff as a Bank Holiday
- From the zone for which the vehicle is licensed to another zone in North Ayrshire – if the journey starts or ends in the period 7.00am to 12.00pm (midnight)
- On Christmas Eve and Hogmanay from 7.00pm until 12.00pm (midnight)

For a distance not exceeding $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile (or waiting time not exceeding 10mins). £3.30

Each additional $\frac{1}{20}$ of a mile or additional waiting time of up to 20 seconds. 10p

Tariff 3 (during night across zones): (Tariff 7 if more than 4 passengers are carried)

From the zone for which the vehicle is licensed to another zone in North Ayrshire – if the journey starts or ends in the period 12.00pm (midnight) to 7.00am

Tariff 1 charges (Initial or Additional) plus 50%

Tariff 4 (Festive Periods) (Tariff 8 if more than 4 passengers carried)

All journeys starting or ending at any time on 25th December or 1st January

Double Tariff 1 charges (Initial and Additional)

Extra Charges

If the vehicle starts by carrying more than 4 passengers, the fare is charged as Tariff 1 to 4 (as appropriate) but with 50% added (Tariffs 4 to 8). The higher tariff applies until the hire ends, whether or not any of the passengers leave the vehicle earlier.

Soiling Charge £50

Notes

1. The fare scale applies to journeys which end **within** North Ayrshire. Fares for journeys beyond the Council area are not set by the Council. They should be agreed between the passenger and the driver **before** the start of the journey.
2. Luggage shall be carried **free** if it is of a size which can reasonably be accommodated in the car.
3. The metered charge is the **maximum** which can be charged. The driver can always charge less.
4. The Tariff 2 and 3 charge applies as soon as the journey starts, and it **does not change** if part of the journey is inside the Night Period, Sunday, Public Holiday, or zone and part outside.
5. The meter can **only** be started immediately before the vehicle moves off, and must be stopped when the vehicle arrives at its destination. The meter cannot be used while the vehicle is being loaded before moving off or being unloaded after the vehicle stops at its destination.
6. There is no extra charge for loading or unloading passengers with wheelchairs, assistance dogs or anything the passenger wants to have carried.



Proposed Taxi Fare Scales

Applying from and after Monday 24 May 2021.

The scales are also shown on the Council's website - search for "Taxi Fares" or type:

<https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/business/licences-and-permits/taxi-licences/taxi-fares.aspx>

Tariff 1 (Normal)

Up to the first 3/4 mile - £3.20

Then each mile - £2.00 (in 10p units)

Waiting: up to 10 minutes - £3.20 (and then 10p every 20 seconds or part)

Tariff 2 (Higher)

Up to the first 3/4 mile - £3.50

Then each mile - £2.00 (in 10p units)

Waiting: up to 10 minutes - £3.50 (and then 10p every 20 seconds or part)

Tariff 2 applies if the journey starts **or** ends:

- in the period 12.00 p.m. (midnight) to 7.00 a.m. ("Night")

- on a Sunday

- on the following Public Holidays:

Good Friday

early May Bank Holiday

Spring Bank Holiday

Summer Bank Holiday

30 November (St Andrew's Day)

If a Bank Holiday is on a weekend, the following Monday is treated as the Bank Holiday

Boundary Zone Charge

If the journey is from the Zone for which the vehicle is licensed to another Zone in North Ayrshire:

- if the journey starts **AND** ends in the period 7.00 am to 12.00 pm (midnight) - Tariff 2
- if the journey starts **OR** ends in the period 12.00 pm (midnight) to 7.00 am - Tariff 1 (and any extra charges) **plus 50%**

Festive Period Charge

If the journey starts **OR** ends on these 4 days:

25th December
26th December
1st January
2nd January

Double Tariff 1 (and any extra charges)

Extra Charges

Soiling Charge - £50

Large Vehicle Charge (5 or more passengers)

If the vehicle starts by carrying more than 4 passengers, the fare is charged as an **extra 50%** on the Tariffs and Charges that would otherwise apply. The higher fare applies **until** the hire ends, even if some of the passengers leave the vehicle earlier and there are fewer than 5 left in the vehicle.

Notes

1. These Scales apply to journeys which **both** start and end within North Ayrshire. The Council do not set fares for journeys beyond the Council area. The passenger and the driver should agree the fare **before** the start of the journey.
2. Luggage shall be carried free if it is of a size which can reasonably be accommodated in the car.
3. The metered charge is the **maximum** which can be charged. The driver can always charge less.

4. Tariffs apply as soon as the journey starts and do not change. For example, if the journey starts at 6.30 a.m. ("Night") but ends at 7.30 a.m. ("Day"), then the fare is still Tariff 2 because the journey **started** at night.

5. The meter can **only** be started immediately before the vehicle moves off, and must be stopped when the vehicle arrives at its destination. The meter cannot be used while the vehicle is being loaded before moving off or being unloaded after the vehicle stops at its destination. The meter can show a waiting charge if the passenger has asked the driver to wait.

6. There is no extra charge for loading, carrying or unloading passengers with wheelchairs, assistance animals or anything the passenger wants to have carried.

DRAFT

**North Ayrshire Council
Taxi Fare Scales Review**

Economic Indicators

	Index Name	START	END	Change
1	'ALL ITEMS'	107.9	109.1	1.1%
	CPI INDEX 00 (2015=100)			
	Series: D7BT			
	(update Feb 2021)			
2	'PURCHASE OF VEHICLES'	104.3	110.0	5.5%
	CPIH INDEX 07.1 (2015=100)			
	Series: L543			
	(update Feb 2021)			
3	'MOTORING EXPENDITURE: MAINTENANCE OF MOTOR VEHICLES'	454.4	472.9	4.1%
	RPI (Jan 1987=100)			
	Series: DOCT			
	(update Feb 2021)			
4	'PETROL'	114.7	108.3	-5.6%
	CPI INDEX 07.2.2.2 (2015=100)			
	Series ID: L7FP			
	(update Feb 2021)			
5	'DIESEL'	114.8	108.4	-5.6%
	CPI INDEX 07.2.2.1 (2015=100)			
	Series ID: L7FO			
	(update Feb 2021)			

Notes:

- 1 Source: 'Office for National Statistics' website
CPIH = 'Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs'
CPI = 'Consumer Prices Index'
RPI = 'Retail Prices Index'
All three are published by ONS - website:
<https://www.ons.gov.uk>
- 2 To help comparison, statistics for values changing over time are often given as an INDEX number, with the value when the figures were first recorded being set at 100. Later values can then be shown relative to 100, so that the change between TWO later times can be shown as a percentage.
- 3 The current Fare Scales took effect on 22 July 2019.
- 4 Indicators are published monthly, and the figures shown are:
START - July 2019
END - Feb 2021
These are the most recent ONS figures.



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DRAFT

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

21 April 2021

Licensing Committee

Title: Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and other Licensing statutes: Licensing Matters

Purpose: To advise the Committee of:
a) Hearings to be determined;

Recommendation: 1) That the Committee should decide whether or not to make a Resolution excluding the public from the meeting at which any of the matters in this Report are to be considered;
2) That the Committee consider and determine the matters before them.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The Licensing Committee's remit is to exercise the Council's licensing functions. These functions arise under many statutes, mainly the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. Depending on the legislation and the circumstances of each individual case, the Committee is entitled to grant, refuse, renew, vary, suspend and revoke Licences.

2. Background

2.1 The Committee's business under the 1982 Act is as follows:

Appendix A - Licences and Permits where Hearings have been convened

Exempt Information

2.2. The Committee will consider "Exempt Information" under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Schedule 7A. The information is covered by one or more of the following categories of "Exempt Information" under Schedule 7A:

Paragraph 3: "Information relating to any particular applicant for, or recipient or former recipient of, any service provided by the authority."

Paragraph 6: "Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority)."

Paragraph 14: "Any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime."

Paragraph 15: "The identity of a Protected Informant" - where "Protected Informant" is defined in Part III as a person who informs the Local Authority about a

past, present or future crime, breach of statutory duty, breach of planning control, or nuisance.

- 2.3. The details of the cases in the Appendix, with any relevant documents (such as letters from the Police or objectors) are in the background papers given to Committee Members and will be sent to the respective Applicants or Licence-Holders before the Meeting. The Schedules are excluded from the published Agenda under Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Section 50B(2) and (5). This has been done as the Clerk considers that the meeting is likely not to be open to the public while those Schedules are being considered, as they contain "Exempt Information".
- 2.4. The Committee is entitled, but not obliged, to make a Resolution excluding the public from a meeting during consideration of an item of business whenever it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during consideration of that item of business there would be disclosure to them of "Exempt Information" (Section 50A(4)).
- 2.5. For example:

Paragraph 3 could apply in relation to information or advice requested by a member of the public.

Paragraph 6 could apply to a business activity (such as where an Applicant wants a Licence for business or employment).

Paragraphs 14 or 15 could apply where it was alleged that there was criminal conduct or anti-social behaviour committed by or against a Licence-Holder or Applicant for a Licence, or where the Committee was told that any person had committed a criminal offence (whether or not there had been concluded Court proceedings).

- 2.6. Accordingly, if a Resolution is made:

- (a) the publicly-accessible Minutes will exclude so much of the proceedings during which the public were excluded (Section 50C);
- (b) the Minutes will include a summary of the proceedings without disclosing the 'Exempt Information' (Sections 50C(2) & 50C(1)(b)).

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Committee consider and determine each of the listed cases in accordance with the required procedure.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 There are possible financial implications in relation to any Licensing decision.

Human Resources

4.2 None.

Legal

4.3 There are possible legal implications in relation to any licensing decision. Depending on the legislation, there may be a right of appeal.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 Equality Act 2010 imposes duties on the Council:

Section 1(1) ("Public sector duty regarding socio-economic inequalities"): the Council
"must, when making decisions of a strategic nature about how to exercise its functions, have due regard to the desirability of exercising them in a way that is designed to reduce the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage."

Section 149(1) ("Public sector equality duty"): the Council

"must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under [that Act];
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a "Relevant Protected Characteristic" and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a "Relevant Protected Characteristic" and persons who do not share it."

The "Relevant Protected Characteristics" are: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

The Clerk has considered these Duties in preparing this Report and any specific impacts will be evaluated where appropriate. Unless the Clerk advises the Committee otherwise in a particular case, there are no significant impacts to be considered

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 None

Key Priorities

4.6 An effective licensing system, for example monitoring the 'fit and proper' status of licence-holders, the safety of vehicles, and the suitability of premises, helps progress

towards one of the Priority Outcomes of the North Ayrshire Council Plan 2019-2024:
"North Ayrshire's residents and communities are safe."

Community Wealth Building

4.7 There are no Community Wealth Building issues.

5. Consultation

5.1 Consultations have been undertaken where appropriate with Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue, and Council Directorates.

Andrew Fraser
Head of Democratic Services

For further information please contact **William O'Brien, Solicitor (Licensing)**, on licensing@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

Background Papers

None

Hearings (Appendix A)

Case 1	Street Trader Employee's Licence	STL/E/296 (New)
Applicant	Laura Henry	

Case 2	Taxi Driver's Licence	TDL/00792 (New)
Applicant	George Williams	

Case 3	Taxi Licence	TL/429 (New)
Applicant	Gareth Wilkinson	

Case 4	Taxi Driver's Licence	TDL/02197 (New)
Applicant	Gareth Wilkinson	

Case 5	Private Hire Car Licence	PHCL/369 (New)
Applicant	Kelly Scott	
