

**South Ayrshire Council**

**Report by Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services  
to Regulatory Panel of  
17<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

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**Subject:       Review of Metered Taxi Fares**

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**1.       Purpose**

- 1.1       The purpose of this report is to seek Regulatory Panel's approval to review metered fares for taxis and propose a new fare structure.

**2.       Recommendation**

- 2.1       **It is recommended that the Panel should propose the maximum fares as detailed in Appendix 2. The proposed fare structure will then be advertised in terms of section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. Anyone may then comment on the proposed fare structure and the Panel is obliged to consider any representations received. However, if no representations are received delegated powers are requested to permit the Service Lead, Legal and Licensing to set the fare structure as proposed.**

**3.       Background**

- 3.1       The Council is obliged under section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and section 14 of the Transport Act 1985 to fix maximum fare scales and to review these scales at intervals not exceeding eighteen months. With the consent of the taxi trade the review which was due in 2021 was postponed because of the Coronavirus pandemic. The last review was completed with an implementation date of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and the current fare card is annexed – Appendix 1. Whilst obliged to carry out a review, the Council is not obliged to increase (or decrease) maximum fares.

**4.       Proposals**

- 4.1       The taxi trade has been impacted severely by the pandemic. There have been significant increases in costs for the trade in relation to fuel, maintenance, insurance and the cost of replacing vehicles. There has been consultation with all licensed operators and booking offices and the responses received are shown in Appendix 3. The proposed increases reflect the views of the trade. There are currently 110 taxis licensed in South Ayrshire which is 15% decrease in the number pre-pandemic and this reflects the pressures which the trade has been under. The increased fares are required to keep the taxi fleet sustainable.

4.2 If approved, the proposed fare structure will be advertised in the press with a proposal that the fares will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022. Any person may make representations in writing on the proposed fares and the Panel is obliged to consider such representations before the proposed scale is fixed.

## **5 Equalities**

The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Equality Impact Assessment Scoping process. There are no significant potential positive or negative equality impacts of agreeing the recommendations and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. A copy of the Equalities Scoping Assessment is attached as Appendix 4.

### **Person to Contact:**

Morag Douglas,  
Licensing Team Leader,  
County Buildings,  
Wellington Square,  
Ayr  
Telephone (01292) 617687  
Date 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

## Current Fare Card



## Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and Transport Act 1985

## METERED FARES FOR TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE CARS

With effect from 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019 the **maximum** fares and charges are as follows:-

## JOURNEYS MADE WITHIN SOUTH AYRSHIRE

## TARIFF 1

For up to 5 passengers - Journeys beginning after 6.00am until midnight.

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| (1) For a distance not exceeding 1100 yards, or waiting time not exceeding 280 seconds.                                       | £3.00 |
| (2) For each additional and subsequent 78.2 yards, or part thereof, or additional waiting time of 24 seconds or part thereof. | £0.10 |

## TARIFF 2

For up to 5 passengers - Journeys beginning after midnight until 6.00am.

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| (1) For a distance not exceeding 1100 yards, or waiting time not exceeding 280 seconds.                                       | £4.00 |
| (2) For each additional and subsequent 78.2 yards, or part thereof, or additional waiting time of 24 seconds or part thereof. | £0.10 |

## TARIFF 3

For 6 - 8 passengers - Journeys beginning after 6.00am until midnight.

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| (1) For a distance not exceeding 1100 yards, or waiting time not exceeding 280 seconds.                                       | £4.50 |
| (2) For each additional and subsequent 104.3 yards or part thereof, or additional waiting time of 32 seconds or part thereof. | £0.20 |

## TARIFF 4

For 6 - 8 passengers - Journeys beginning after midnight until 6.00am.

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| (1) For a distance not exceeding 1100 yards, or waiting time not exceeding 280 seconds.                                       | £6.00 |
| (2) For each additional and subsequent 104.3 yards or part thereof, or additional waiting time of 32 seconds or part thereof. | £0.20 |

## CHRISTMAS &amp; NEW YEAR

For Journeys beginning after 9.00pm until midnight on 24 & 31 December, and from 6.00am until midnight on 25 & 26 December and 1 & 2 January, and for Journeys beginning after midnight until 6.00am on 25, 26 & 27 December, and on 1, 2 & 3 January.

ALL FARES WILL BE SUBJECT TO A SURCHARGE OF FARE PLUS 50%

## ADDITIONAL CHARGES

- (1) Where a taxi has been arranged, but not used by the hirer, the applicable tariff will apply.
- (2) Waiting time (per hour) £16.00
- (3) Soiling Charge – a fee is chargeable for any soiling which necessitates a taxi being removed from service for cleaning. £60.00

## JOURNEYS MADE OUTWITH SOUTH AYRSHIRE

Such a fare, prior to the acceptance of the hire, as may be proposed to the hirer and accepted by him.

## Proposed Fare Card



## Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and Transport Act 1985

## METERED FARES FOR TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE CARS

## JOURNEYS MADE WITHIN SOUTH AYRSHIRE

**TARIFF 1**

For up to 5 passengers - Journeys beginning after 6.00am until midnight.

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| (1) For a distance not exceeding 1100 yards, or waiting time not exceeding 280 seconds.                                       | £3.60 |
| (2) For each additional and subsequent 78.2 yards, or part thereof, or additional waiting time of 24 seconds or part thereof. | £0.12 |

**TARIFF 2**

For up to 5 passengers - Journeys beginning after midnight until 6.00am.

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| (1) For a distance not exceeding 1100 yards, or waiting time not exceeding 280 seconds.                                       | £4.80 |
| (2) For each additional and subsequent 78.2 yards, or part thereof, or additional waiting time of 24 seconds or part thereof. | £0.12 |

**TARIFF 3**

For 6 - 8 passengers - Journeys beginning after 6.00am until midnight.

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| (1) For a distance not exceeding 1100 yards, or waiting time not exceeding 280 seconds.                                       | £5:40 |
| (2) For each additional and subsequent 104.3 yards or part thereof, or additional waiting time of 32 seconds or part thereof. | £0.24 |

**TARIFF 4**

For 6 - 8 passengers - Journeys beginning after midnight until 6.00am.

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| (1) For a distance not exceeding 1100 yards, or waiting time not exceeding 280 seconds.                                       | £6.76 |
| (2) For each additional and subsequent 104.3 yards or part thereof, or additional waiting time of 32 seconds or part thereof. | £0.24 |

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR**

For Journeys beginning after 9.00pm until midnight on 24 & 31 December, and from 6.00am until midnight on 25 & 26 December and 1 & 2 January, and for Journeys beginning after midnight until 6.00am on 25, 26 & 27 December, and on 1, 2 & 3 January.

ALL FARES WILL BE SUBJECT TO A SURCHARGE OF FARE PLUS 50%

**ADDITIONAL CHARGES**

- (1) Where a taxi has been arranged, but not used by the hirer, the applicable tariff will apply.
- (2) Waiting time (per hour) £18.00
- (3) Soiling Charge – a fee is chargeable for any soiling which necessitates a taxi being removed from service for cleaning. £60.00

**JOURNEYS MADE OUTWITH SOUTH AYRSHIRE**

Such a fare, prior to the acceptance of the hire, as may be proposed to the hirer and accepted by him.

**RESPONSES RECEIVED**

**South Ayrshire Taxi Owners Association**

Consensus is for 20p per mile and midnight flag fall to start at £4-50

**Mrs Catherine WilkieT/A Streamline**

We at Streamline would like to see a substantial rise as costs since covid have exploded. Diesel is up 35p per litre (25 % ) replacement vehicles are up 30% and also parts are up around 30% .

We propose £3.50 starting fare and 50p on the running mile, with waiting time at £20 per hour.

**John Kelly Premier Taxis**

I've had an opportunity to discuss the fare increase with the operators in my company and their general consensus is for a mileage rate increase of 20p per mile and a flag increase on tariff 2 to £4.50 instead of the current £4.00.

**South Ayrshire Council      Equality Impact Assessment Scoping**

**1. Proposal details**

Taxi Fare Review	Lead Officer Morag Douglas
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**2. Which communities, groups of people, employees or thematic groups do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this proposal? Please indicate whether these would be positive or negative impacts**

Community, Groups of People or Themes	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
The whole community of South Ayrshire		x
People from different racial groups, ethnic or national origin.		x
Women and/or men (boys and girls)		x
People with disabilities		x
People from particular age groups for example Older people, children and young people		x
Lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual people		x
People who are proposing to undergo, are undergoing or have undergone a process to change sex		x
Pregnant women and new mothers		x
People who are married or in a civil partnership		x
People who share a particular religion or belie		x
Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights, Rurality and Deprivation.		x

**3. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that the proposal will support the Council to:**

General Duty and other Equality Themes	Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (high, medium or low)
Eliminate discrimination and harassment faced by particular communities or groups	low
Promote equality of opportunity between particular communities or groups	low
Foster good relations between particular communities or groups	low
Promote positive attitudes towards different communities or groups	low
Increase participation of particular communities or groups in public life	low
Improve the health and wellbeing of particular communities or groups	low
Promote the human rights of particular communities or groups	low
Tackle deprivation faced by particular communities or groups	low

**4. Summary Assessment**

<b>Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required?</b> (A full EIA must be carried out on all high and medium impact proposals)	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Rationale for decision:</b> The increase in fares being suggested is in line with increased costs being faced by the taxi trade and is required to keep the taxi service viable as taxis provide a valuable service to the whole community.		