



**Glasgow City Council**  
**Licensing and Regulatory Committee**  
**Report by Director of Legal and Administration**  
**Contact: G McNaught Ext: 74546**

**Item 1**

12th June 2024

**CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982**  
**TAXI LICENSING**  
**TAXI FARE SCALES REVIEW FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 2022 TO**  
**FEBRUARY 2024**

**Purpose of Report:**

To advise Members of the terms of an independent report by Dr James Cooper, James Cooper Associates Ltd, regarding a review of the taxi fare scales covering the period September 2022 to February 2024.

**Recommendations:**

Members are asked to:-

- (1) Consider the terms of Dr Cooper's report and the comments received from taxi trade representatives;
- (2) Determine whether to propose an increase of 9.72% to the existing taxi fare scales as outlined therein, and, if minded to do so; and
- (3) Instruct the Director of Legal and Administration to give notice of that intention in terms of section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, with email notification being provided to those taxi operators who have requested updates in relation to the review of the taxi fare scale, and to report back to the Committee on the terms of any representations received in relation to that notice.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes  No

consulted: Yes  No

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 Members will be aware that in terms of section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 it is a duty of the Licensing Authority to fix scales for the fares for the hire of, and all other charges in connection with the hire of, a taxi or with the arrangements for its hire.
- 1.2 In terms of section 17(4A) of the Act, before fixing any scales or carrying out any review, the Licensing Authority shall consult with such persons or organisations appearing to it to be, or be representative of, the operators of taxis operating within its area and thereafter give notice of its intention by advertisement in a newspaper circulating in its area.
- 1.3 Such advertisement must state the general effect of the proposals and the date when it is proposed that the decision will take effect. It must also state that any person may lodge representations in writing with respect to the proposals within a period of one month after the date of the first publication of the notice and thereafter the Licensing Authority must consider any such representations received before fixing the taxi fare scales.
- 1.4 The last review of the taxi fare scales led to an increase of 19.36% and came into effect on 17 April 2023. A copy of the current taxi fare scales is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.5 Following a procurement process, Dr James Cooper, James Cooper Associates Ltd was commissioned to carry out a review of the taxi fare scales covering the period September 2022 to February 2024.

## **2 Representatives of Taxi Operators**

- 2.1 In terms of section 17(4A) of the Act, the Licensing Authority has generally considered that in order to be representative of taxi operators in the city, a person or organisation must represent a minimum of 10% of the total number of taxi operators in the city.
- 2.2 Glasgow Taxis Limited, Unite the Union Glasgow Cab Section and Glasgow Taxi Owners Federation have been recognised as organisations representative of taxi operators in the city.
- 2.3 The Licensing Authority is not aware of any other person or organisation that is representative of taxi operators in the city.

## **3 Review of Taxi Fare Scales**

- 3.1 As there was a recent procurement process in relation to commissioning an independent organisation to carry out a review of the taxi fare scales, a “bottom up” review of the criteria and methodology used for reviewing taxi fares scales was also to be carried out at the same time as a review of the taxi fare scales for the period September 2022 to February 2024. James Cooper Associates Ltd was appointed through the procurement process to carry out this work.

3.2 Dr Cooper was requested to carry out a “bottom up” review of the criteria and methodology used for reviewing taxi fare scales at the same time as a review of the taxi fare scales for the period September 2022 to February 2024. Dr Cooper’s resulting report is attached at Appendix 2 to this report.

3.3 The changes to the current taxi fare scale are detailed on page 4 of the report.

3.4 In applying the criteria and methodology, Dr Cooper recommends an increase of 9.72% to the current taxi fare scales. Dr Cooper has recommended that the increase is applied on the following basis:-

- That the flag fall should increase from £4.00 to £4.40;
- That the application of the flag fall charge should be changed from:
  - A distance not exceeding 886 yards to a distance not exceeding 889 yards;
  - A time not exceeding 166 seconds to a time not exceeding 167 seconds.
- Each additional increment should be changed from a distance not exceeding 196 yards to a distance not exceeding 179 yards;
- That the distance charge should remain at an increment of 30 pence;
- That the time unit should change from 42 seconds to 38 seconds;
- That the time charge should remain at 30 pence;
- That the soiling charge should increase from £42.00 to £46.00;
- That the additional charge for hires after 21:00 hours and before 06:00 hours should be £1.50. This is a change, to the time and cost, from the current additional charge for hires after 23:00 hours and before 06:00 which is £1.40; and
- That the additional charge for hires commenced between 21:00 hours on 24 December and 06:00 hours on 27 December; and between 21:00 hours on 31 December and 06:00 hours on 3 January be £2.70. This is a change, to the time and cost, from the current additional charge for hires commenced on 25 and 26 December and 1 and 2 January which is currently £2.50.

#### **4 Consultation with Representatives of Taxi Operators**

4.1 Following receipt of Dr Cooper’s report, Glasgow Taxis, Unite the Union Cab Section and Glasgow Taxi Owners Federation were consulted on the terms of the report and were requested to provide comments.

4.2 Glasgow Taxis is of the view that the methodology is fair and still relevant. Glasgow Taxis do however have an issue around the potential improvement towards the nighttime economy and Christmas/New Year holidays. Glasgow Taxis is of the view that the increase of the night shift flag fall by 10pence will not be effective. In order to demonstrate a premium tariff and support nightshift and these specific holidays, Glasgow Taxis feel the increase in flag fall should be £3.00 for night shift and £5 for the holiday dates mentioned. In the view of Glasgow Taxis, this would encourage coverage at these times and assist with availability of vehicles. In addition, Glasgow Taxis feel the nightshift should stop at 5am, in an effort to assist and support, staff/working people who use Taxi services to get

to work. Many people have a working day commencing at 6am and that 1 hour could make a difference and not penalise these workers as they travel to work.

4.3 No comments were received from Unite the Union Glasgow Cab Section to the report.

4.4 Glasgow Taxi Owners Federation is of the following opinion:

- 9.72% is acceptable, but the application of it is not;
- The night charge being moved to 9 pm is acceptable;
- Not reinstating the extras per person after 2, is not acceptable;
- Time element for waiting time Not to change;
- Soil charge No change it is pointless;
- Night charge to be changed to £2.00; and
- Christmas/New Year charge to be revised.

The rationale for the above opinion is provided in Appendix 3 to this report.

4.5 Representatives from Glasgow Taxis, Unite the Union Cab Section and Glasgow Taxi Owners Federation will be provided with an opportunity to address the Committee on the terms of the report.

4.6 Dr Cooper will address the committee on the recommendations set out in his report and will respond to any questions from the Committee.

## 5 Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

*Financial:* None

*Legal:* The review of taxi fare scales has been carried out in accordance with section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

*Personnel:* None

*Procurement:* None

**Council Strategic Plan:** Not Applicable

**Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:** Not Applicable

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.*

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?*

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.*

**Climate Impacts:** Not Applicable

*Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:*

*What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?*

*Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?*

**Privacy and Data Protection Impacts**

*Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report?*

No

*If yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out.*

Not applicable

## 6 Recommendations

Members are asked to:-

- 6.1 Consider the terms of Dr Cooper's report and the comments received from taxi trade representatives;

- 6.2 Determine whether to propose an increase of 9.72% to the existing taxi fare scales as outlined therein, and, if minded to do so; and
- 6.3 Instruct the Director of Legal and Administration to give notice of that intention in terms of section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, with email notification being provided to those taxi operators who have requested updates in relation to the review of the taxi fare scale, and to report back to the Committee on the terms of any representations received in relation to that notice.