



Glasgow City Council

Licensing and Regulatory Committee

Report by Director of Legal and Administration

Contact: G McNaught Ext: 74546

Item 3

5th August 2026

**CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982
TAXI LICENSING
TAXI FARE SCALES REVIEW FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 2025 TO FEBRUARY
2026**

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 March 2025 to February 2026.

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 1.31% to the existing taxi fare scales as outlined therein and determine whether to propose a limited term fuel surcharge as outlined therein, and, if minded to do so;
- (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 ☐ ☐

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 3.32% and came into effect on 13 October 2025. 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 March 2025 to February 2026.

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 and Glasgow Taxi Owners Federation have been recognised as organisations representative of taxi operators in the city by the Licensing Authority this year.
- 2.3 The Licensing Authority is not aware of any other person or organisation that is representative of taxi operators in the city, this year.

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, 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 “top down” review of the taxi fare scales for the period March 2025 to February 2026. Dr Cooper’s resulting report is attached at Appendix 2 to this report. The changes to the current taxi fare scale are detailed on page 5 of the report.

3.3 Dr Cooper recommends an increase of 1.31% to the current taxi fare scales. Dr Cooper has recommended that the increase is applied on the following basis:-

- That the flag fall should remain at £4.50;
- That the application of the flag fall charge should be changed from:
 - A distance not exceeding 880 yards to a distance not exceeding 867 yards;
 - A time not exceeding 165 seconds to a time not exceeding 163 seconds.
- Each additional increment should be changed from a distance not exceeding 174 yards to a distance not exceeding 172 yards;
- That the distance charge should remain at an increment of 30 pence;
- That the time unit should change from 37 seconds to 36 seconds;
- That the time charge should remain at 30 pence;
- That the soiling charge should increase from £47.50 to £48.00;
- That the additional charge for hires commenced after 21:00 hours and before 06:00 hours should be £1.50;
- That an additional charge of 25 pence shall be payable on all hires for a limited period not beyond 30 September 2026; 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 should remain at £2.70.

4 Consultation with Representatives of Taxi Operators

4.1 Following receipt of Dr Cooper’s report, Glasgow Taxis Limited and Glasgow Taxi Owners Federation were consulted on the terms of the report and were requested to provide comments to the Licensing Section. These comments were subsequently sent to Dr Cooper from the Licensing Section.

4.2 Glasgow Taxis representative commented that he is content with the recommendations within the report. The representative requests clarity around the length of time a temporary extra fuel charge would be applied and whether the charge will be included by default or by the ‘extras’ button. These comments can be viewed in full in Appendix 3 to this report.

4.3 Glasgow Taxi Owners Federation representative provided the following comments:

- CPI figure for the period was 5% so 1.31% falls short of keeping up with the economic climate;

- The trade have not been consulted correctly;
- Trade consultation should be similar to that in Edinburgh; and
- Benchmarks of 2 mile and 5 mile hires should be done in Glasgow, similar to Edinburgh

The full comments received from Glasgow Taxis Owners Federation's representative can be viewed in Appendix 4 to this report.

4.4 Representatives from Glasgow Taxis and Glasgow Taxi Owners Federation will be provided with an opportunity to address the Committee on the terms of the report.

4.5 Dr Cooper will address the Committee on the recommendations set out in the 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 2025-29? 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: No.

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report
Y/N

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 1.31% to the existing taxi fare scales as outlined therein, and determine whether to propose a limited term fuel surcharge as outlined therein, and, if minded to do so;
- 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.