

**EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL****LICENSING COMMITTEE****15 MARCH 2022****Report by Chief Officer (Legal & Procurement)****CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 – TAXI FARES REVIEW****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. For the Committee to review taxi fares.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. The Licensing Committee is asked to consider the terms of a report presented to them on the 18th January 2022 in relation to the proposed review of taxi fares together with the responses following consultation.

**BACKGROUND**

3. The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (“the Act”) provides that the licensing authority must fix scales for the fares and other charges made in connection with the hire of a taxi or with the arrangement for its hire. This item was continued from 7th December and then considered on the 18th January 2022 when the Licensing Committee agreed to a Public Notice being advertised in the Barrhead News to form the consultation process. Following the publication of the Public Notice, responses were received from representatives of the taxi and private hire license trade with their views in relation to what they consider appropriate fees and charges. These are attached for consideration.

Since the last review there is evidence from operators that their costs have increased substantially.

It is important to note that these are maximum fares and charges and it is always possible for a taxi operator to charge less if the licence holder wants to. Also, the tariff applies to taxis, not private hire cars.

**REPORT**

4. The setting of taxi fares is not an exact science but guidance given to Councils by the Traffic Commissioner states that Councils should attempt to calculate the changes and costs that taxi operators face. The current Best Practice Guidance issued by the Scottish Government refers to guidance issued by the Secretary of State in 1982 – “the public interest is better served by ensuring that the maintenance of an adequate taxi service by giving the trade a fair return, than by depressing fares for social reasons, however understandable.
5. Suggested fares taking into account the comments received from existing licence holders were attached to the Report dated 18th January 2022.
6. The representation to Fare Proposal by a number of taxi operators dated 4th March 2022 is attached.

## **FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY**

7. The carrying out of fare reviews is incorporated within the taxi licensing budget and recovered through application fees.

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8. A fare increase may persuade more licence holders to upgrade to wheelchair accessible vehicles.

## **CONSULTATION**

9. The Licensing Section has consulted directly with every holder of a taxi vehicle licence and has consulted the trade/public through the Council website. The main public consultation was through the publication of a Public Notice in the Barrhead News and the response to this dated 4th March 2022 is attached.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

10. The Licensing Committee is therefore asked to consider the terms of this report together the response to the public consultation and review the fares for the hire of taxis in East Renfrewshire.
11. It should be noted that it is now a statutory requirement to review fares periodically.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

12. The Licensing Committee is asked to consider the terms of this report together with the response to the consultation dated 4th March 2022 and determine new scales for the hire of taxis in East Renfrewshire and all other charges in connection with the hire of a taxi or with the arrangements for its hire (whether at altered rates or the same rates).

Report Author

Report by: Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement), Gerry Mahon

TEL: 0141 557 3801 e-mail: [Gerry.mahon@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:Gerry.mahon@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

Report author and further information from: Jacqui McCusker, Senior Solicitor  
e-mail: [jacqui.mccusker@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:jacqui.mccusker@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

Licensing Committee Convenor: Angela Convery

## **KEY WORDS**

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, Taxi Licence, licensing, taxi tariff, taxi fare review 2022.

**5**  
CIVIL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982

**TAXI FARE SCALE**

**JOURNEYS MADE WITHIN EAST RENFREWSHIRE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with the provision of Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 that East Renfrewshire Council propose to fix a new taxi fare scale as follows:

		<b>Effective from 2015</b>	<b>Effective from 2022</b>
<b>TARIFF 1</b>			
	<b><i>For Journeys beginning after 5.00am until midnight.</i></b>		
(1)	For a distance not exceeding 3/4 mile, or waiting time not exceeding 4 minutes.	£3.50	£4.25
(2)	For each additional and subsequent 1/10 <sup>th</sup> of a mile or part thereof, , or additional waiting time of 30 seconds	£0.18	£0.20
<b>TARIFF 2</b>			
	<b><i>For Journeys beginning after midnight until 5.00am.</i></b>		
(1)	For a distance not exceeding 3/4 mile, or waiting time not exceeding 4 minutes.	£4.20	£4.50
(2)	For each additional and subsequent 1/10 <sup>th</sup> of a mile or part thereof, or additional waiting time of 30 seconds	£0.18	£0.25
<b>TARIFF 3</b>			
	<b><i>For Journeys beginning Friday and Saturday nights after midnight until 6.00am.</i></b>		
(1)	For a distance not exceeding 3/4 mile, or waiting time not exceeding 4 minutes.	£N/A	£4.90
(2)	For each additional and subsequent 1/10 <sup>th</sup> of a mile or part thereof, or additional waiting time of 30 seconds	£N/A	£0.30
<b>TARIFF 4</b>			
	<b><i>For Journeys beginning after 0.01am until midnight on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December, and from 0.01am until midnight on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> January</i></b>		
(1)	For a distance not exceeding 3/4 mile, or waiting time not exceeding 4 minutes.	£5.75	£6.50
(2)	For each additional and subsequent 1/10 <sup>th</sup> of a mile or part thereof, or additional waiting time of 30 seconds	£0.25	£0.40
<b>ADDITIONAL CHARGES</b>			
(1)	Waiting time (per hour) not included above	£18.00	£25.00
(2)	Soiling Charge (anti-social related only)	£40.00	£60.00
(3)	For vehicles licensed to carry more than 4 passengers on those occasions where more than 4 passengers are carried the maximum fare will be total tariff plus 50%. These vehicles will be allowed to display an additional 3 tariffs for the purpose of calculating the additional fare.	+50%	No change
(4)	Charge for payment of parking fees for pick up/drop off at Airport or other venue (if charges apply at Airport or other venue)	£N/A	£4.00

These are the maximum fare that may be charged by any licensed East Renfrewshire Taxi. Any complaints should be submitted to the booking office for this taxi or Licensing Section, East Renfrewshire Council, Eastwood Park, Rouken Glen Road, Giffnock, G46 6UG.

It is proposed that the above fare scales will come into effect from Monday, 4 April 2022.

Any person wishing to make representations in relation to the above proposals must do so in writing to the undernoted address by no later than 7 March 2022.

Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement  
Council Headquarters  
Eastwood Park  
Rouken Glen Road  
Giffnock  
G46 6UG

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Hi Angela

We would like to make a number of points regarding our fare review and the Committee meeting on 18th of January 2022..

First off all the last fare rise was in 2015. By law any Taxi Fare reviews in Scotland should be reviewed no later than every 18 months and it has been 3/4 years since last review. As Taxi Drivers/Operators it is disappointing to see the total disregard and contempt towards the Taxi Trade from East Renfrewshire Council. It appears each other local authority review Taxi Fares accordingly.

The Committee meeting in December had this new fare proposal put on the agenda. This was never seen until the 2nd week of January when the website was updated. After the meeting on the 18th of January the minutes of the meeting have not been updated so the 28 day advertising period will not be met for the next meeting. This should also be advertised within the papers with local authorities using information not only on local papers but also The Daily Record. So far all that was available to get any information was on the YouTube video showing us the discussion about the fare review. Unfortunately the proposal that Joe Abrami has submitted has errors and bizarre fares which I will explain.

We did see on your video that the £4.25 fare on Tariff 1 was questioned and considered to be much more than neighbouring local authorities. This is true and would make a 1 and 2 mile journey far too expensive. The reason other local authorities fares are cheaper is due to there flagfalls starting lower than ours but they're yardage starts much earlier. This works out better for the drivers and by the time they reach a mile they are better off than ourselves. The proposal brought to the Committee the waiting time did not match the waiting time per hour. For years we have had fares going up in 18 pence increments. This was no use to the drivers or public and involves change nobody has. Then to see that 5 pences will be involved is just as bad. It would be better for all if the fares do not have these 5 pences involved. Many drivers coin boxes only have £2, £1, 50, 20 & 10 pences so that the fare structure which would be easier for everybody. One of the meter programmers (Stuart Benny) was shown the fare proposal and he has mentioned a number of things that he might not be able to program due to the yardage and waiting time not matching up with the waiting time per hour.. I don't know if anybody could see that the addition tariffs mileage price and waiting time were also different from Tariff 1, not only different but far too expensive and again not matching the waiting time per hour. The addition Tariffs should have higher flagfall but mileage/yardage and waiting time remain the same. Only time it should be different is Xmas and New Year.

Stuart Benny is also a Taxi Driver/Operator in East Kilbride. He also programs meters for a few other local authorities and finds East Renfrewshire a rather bizarre setup. All other local authorities state the fares in yards. This makes things much simpler as the meter is programmed in yards plus this is used and adjusted with fare reviews with other local authorities. Stuart was quite happy to speak to somebody within the council and has attempted to contact Brian Kilpatrick but so far got no response.

Perhaps one of the meter programmers can be invited to show how meters work and how the increments go up and to give a better understanding about the meter has to be set and fares in general.

We would also like to point out that late evenings are unsociable hours. I do not know why from 10pm night time tariffs are not commencing from this time. This was put through on a fare proposal from various operators. Also what is considered unsociable is working the evenings of Christmas Eve and Hogmanay. Currently we go into Fare and a Half from 6pm on those days but with the proposal the Committee received the higher fare tariff would not commence until midnight. So that's 6 hours taken from us on both these days.

Included are the Fare Tariffs from East Kilbride and Glasgow to show how these fares are setup plus with the earlier night time tariffs and will submit a counter fare proposal too which would be more suitable and more in favour with us operators.

The Airport charge should not be on the fare sheet. For a start the Airport is not within East Renfrewshire and these charges can change at anytime plus we regularly drop at 3 airports not just the one and these differ so it would make our fare sheet inaccurate. Perhaps the extras feature can be set by the driver to whatever the airport charge is.

PTO →

**Fare Suggestion 2022**

1320 yards is 3/4 of a mile  
176 yards is 1/10th of a mile

Increase of 30 pence to Tariff 1 and rises to all other Tariffs. Increase of 20 pence to running mile. Slight increase to waiting time to increase the hourly rate from £18 to £20.50..

**Tariff 1 (5.00 to 22.00)**

- (1) For a distance not exceeding 1320 yards, or waiting time not exceeding 4 minutes. **£3.80**  
(Average 2 mile journey £6.40)
- (2) For each additional 176 yards or waiting time of 35 seconds **£0.20**

**Tariff 2 (Sunday to Thursday 22.00 to 5.00)**

- (1) For a distance not exceeding 1320 yards, or waiting time not exceeding 4 minutes. **£4.50**
- (2) For each additional 176 yards or waiting time of 35 seconds **£0.20**

**Tariff 3 (Friday and Saturday 22.00 to 5.00)**

- (1) For a distance not exceeding 1320 yards, or waiting time not exceeding 4 minutes. **£5.00**
- (2) For each additional 176 yards or waiting time of 35 seconds **£0.20**

**Tariff 4 (18.00 24th Dec to 5.00 27th Dec  
18.00 31st Dec to 5.00 3rd Jan)**

- (1) For a distance not exceeding 1320 yards, or waiting time not exceeding 4 minutes. **£6.00**
- (2) For each additional 176 yards or waiting time of 35 seconds **£0.30**

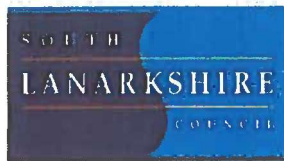
Waiting Time- From 4 minutes. 20 pence every 35 seconds (34p per minute)

Waiting Time Per Hour- £20.50

Soilage Charge- £45.00

**Taxi Operators**

- G&M cars- TL009
- K Ramsay- TL065
- S Peden- TL001
- J Kyle- TL034
- J Brophy- TL005
- R Sanderson- TL072
- S Shearer- TL076
- A Gashi- TL020
- J Cullen- TL017
- A Davies- TL030



Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (as amended)  
Licensing of Taxis and Private Hire Cars

**East Kilbride Area  
Fares Tariff for Exclusive Hire**

Vehicle Registration Number	
Taxi/Private Hire Car Licence Number	
Owner's Name	

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL PASSENGERS**

**Exclusive Hire** means that a single fare is payable by any one passenger for the exclusive hire of a taxi or private hire car, whether or not more than one passenger is carried.

**HIRE of Taxi/Private Hire Car** (fitted with a taxi meter) –  
not exceeding 880 yards £2.90  
for the next NINE additional 293 yards or any part 30 pence  
thereafter each additional 264 yards or any part 20 pence  
(an average 2 mile hire of £5.60)

**FARE REVIEW IN PLACE  
FLAGFALL INCREASED TO £3.20  
RUNNING MILE INCREASED BY 20P  
(EVERY 235 YARDS 20P)**

**BEYOND THE AREA OF EAST KILBRIDE ZONE** – may be subject to surcharge of 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the normal metered fare.

**WAITING TIME** – 20 pence for each period of 60 seconds or part thereof (£12 per hour).  
**STOPPAGE(S) AT THE REQUEST OF HIRER** – 20 pence for each period of 60 seconds or part thereof (£12 per hour).

**FARES BY TIME** - subject to special agreement in advance with the hirer.

**NO FARE CHARGEABLE** - for the vacant return journey of a taxi/private hire car from destination of the hirer.

**SOILAGE CHARGE** - the hirer will pay a soilage charge of £30 if the vehicle is soiled due to sickness caused by alcohol or drugs, any take-away spillage or any other fouling of the vehicle. It shall not be charged if the vehicle is soiled either due to a child being sick or due to genuine illness.

**CALLED BUT NOT USED** – when a hired car is called but not used - £2.80

**SURCHARGES**

- (1) a surcharge of 60 pence may be charged for each hire begun between the hours of 10pm and 5am. A further surcharge of 20 pence may be charged for each hire begun between the hours of 10pm and 5am each Friday into Saturday and Saturday into Sunday.
- (2) a surcharge of 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the normal metered fare may be charged for each hire from 6am on 24<sup>th</sup> December until 5am on 27<sup>th</sup> December and from 6am on 31<sup>st</sup> December until midnight on 2<sup>nd</sup> January.
- (3) a surcharge, to be specially agreed in advance with the hirer, may be charged for 5 or more passengers hiring a people carrier type car.

← **TARIFF 2 & 3**

← **TARIFF 4.**

**T5 & 6 FOR WGGKENDS  
NIGHTS ON THOSE DATES**

The above fares structure comes into operation on 14 May 2021

Head of Administration and Legal Services, South Lanarkshire Council  
4 Livingstone Boulevard, Blantyre, G72 0BP

20010801JC

**GLASGOW**

Table A4: Tariff table update

Table A4.1: Current tariff

	Max Distance		Max Time				Cost	
<b>Maximum Fare</b>	932	Yards	or	2	Minute	59	Seconds	£3.40
<b>Each additional increment</b>	164	Yards	or	--	--	34	Seconds	£0.20
<b>Soiling charge</b>								£23.40
<b>EXTRAS</b>								
<b>Each additional passenger beyond 2</b>								£0.10
<b>Additional for hires after 23:00 and before</b>								£1.10
<b>Hires commenced 25 &amp; 26 Dec; and 1 &amp; 2</b>								£2.00

**PASSGD IN 2021**

Table A4.2 Proposed tariff, rounded application to all cost elements

	Max Distance		Max Time				Cost	
<b>Maximum Fare</b>	904	Yards	or	2	Minutes	52	Seconds	£3.40
<b>Each additional increment</b>	159	Yards	or	--	--	33	Seconds	£0.20
<b>Soiling charge</b>								£23.50
<b>EXTRAS</b>								
<b>Each additional passenger beyond 2</b>								--
<b>Additional for hires after 23:00 and before 06:00</b>								£1.20
<b>Hires commenced 25 &amp; 26 Dec; and 1 &amp; 2 Jan</b>								£2.10
<b>Increase applied:</b>	3.08%							
<b>Increase applied:</b>	Decrease in yardage / time							