

## Regulatory Committee

10.00am, Monday 14 May 2018

### Present

Councillors Fullerton (Convener), Barrie, Burgess, Dixon, Rose, Neil Ross and Smith.

### 1. Taxi Fares Review – Outcome of Public Consultation

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The Committee agreed to hear deputations from Les McVey on behalf of City Cabs, and Tony Kenmuir on behalf of Central Taxis in relation to the report by the Executive Director of Place on the consultation on the review of taxi fares.

#### 1.1 Deputation by City Cabs

The deputation highlighted the following points:

- Appreciation of the extensive consultation which had been undertaken and being given the chance to contribute.
- There was a desire to implement fares which were broadly accepted by the trade and this had for the most part been achieved.
- The airport pickup charge had remained at 80p for over 15 years and was due to be reviewed.
- There was confusion among the trade regarding different drop-off and pickup areas at the airport which incurred different charges for use, and during the consultation an agreement was made that there should be a single £2.80 airport pickup charge.
- Efforts had been made to organise a meeting of key groups representing the taxi trade to reach consensus however this had not been possible, and there remained some disagreement among the trade about the airport pickup charge.

#### 1.2 Deputation by Central Taxis

The deputation highlighted the following points:

- That the consultation response was submitted late due to miscommunication with officers and Central Taxis believing that their response was on time.
- Central Taxis were satisfied with the airport's proposition to decrease the fee for picking up at the designated pre-booked hire areas at the airport to £2.80, and the Council proposing to include an airport pickup charge of the same amount in the taxi fares as this meant taxis would be able to pass this charge on to customers.
- It was not clear that drivers would be required to sign a contract with the airport agreeing to abide by certain conditions to use the designated pickup areas.
- Drivers were not previously required to pay to pick up customers who had pre-booked a taxi from the designated area, however this charge had increased

regularly since being introduced and due to the airport byelaws were unable to pick up from elsewhere.

- There were concerns over taxi drivers being responsible for collecting an airport pickup charge and passing this on to customers.

### **1.3 Report by the Executive Director of Place**

A consultation had been carried out regarding a routine review of the fare scales and charges used by taxis. A report was presented which outlined the current and proposed tariffs and fare card, and the responses received from the consultation.

#### **Decision**

- 1) To agree to consider the late consultation response submitted by Central Taxis.
- 2) To note the report by the Executive Director of Place and that the Council's further statutory duties had been met in relation to consultation.
- 3) To agree to fix the taxi fare scales as set out at Appendix 2 of the report, subject to the amendment of the airport pickup charge to read "£2.80 maximum", and an explanatory note to be added below the fare table stating that "any airport pickup fee incurred by the driver subject to a maximum of £2.80 would be applied." The revised fare scales would be effective from 18 June 2018.
- 4) To instruct the Executive Director of Place to carry out the statutory notification procedures in relation to the revised taxi fare scales as fixed by the Committee.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)