

(b) TAXI FARES (AN138-2010)

TAXI FARES

Reference is made to Article II(b) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 2nd September, 2010 wherein it was agreed that the fares for taxis be varied as follows:-

Initial Charge

Amended from £2.40 for the first 704 yards or 169 seconds of waiting time to £3 for the first 1204 yards.

Additional Yardage

Up to the first mile - for each 250 yards or 60 seconds of waiting time or part thereof - 20p (no change). After the first mile - yardage reduced to 233 yards or part thereof for 20p.

Festive Period

No change to existing tariffs or yardage.

The proposals were advertised and four representations have been received (copies attached). **(APPENDIX 2)**.

In addition, the City Development Department have intimated that they have contacted both a meter company down south and 123 (formerly DIS) in Old Glamis Road, Dundee regarding the proposal which is to move the initial charge yardage from 704 yards to 1204 yards for a cost of £3.00. The yardage would be 250 yards or part thereof for a charge of 20p until the mile stage then 233 yards or part thereof thereafter. The meter companies have confirmed that this request is not specific enough and is open to interpretation as the request should have been for either 2 or 3 units of 250 yards or part thereof after the initial charge as the unit can be either a combination of distance and/or time. The current distances would be 1204, 1454, 1704, 1954 etc. The meter company would require to know at what yardage the meter change to the 233 yards tariff takes place.

One option would be to amend the initial distance to 1294 yards for £3.00 and go straight to the 233 yards after the initial charge which would have the desired effect of having the charge for the 1 mile distance of £3.40 e.g. £3.00 + 20p + 20p (1294 yards + 233 yards + 233 yards). The benefit of this would be that the road test would be dramatically reduced and would require less distance poles to be located on the test routes and it may be that the current test sites could be amended to reflect this proposal without requiring to find a new test site which can cater for over 1 mile.

Dundee Contract Services have confirmed that, should the yardage remain as proposed, the existing test sites would need to be abandoned as the yardage could not be accommodated. A new site at Coupar Angus Road/Liff Road has been identified but this will mean that the test for new, existing or replacement vehicles would be increased from 1 hour 15 minutes to 1 hour 30 minutes and the fee would also have to rise to reflect this. Apart from the environmental factors the resource implications of this change will also mean an increase in the retesting and bulk meter testing fees with the possibility of charges having to be imposed for other testing station services currently provided free of charge to the trade. The amended yardages outlined by City Development can be accommodated at Dunsinane Avenue without any significant increase to the time taken for the test although, to avoid works entrances and road junctions, none of the existing markers could be used. New markers would need to be positioned.

A copy of the original Report No 389-2010 by the Director of City Development is attached. **(APPENDIX 3)**.

The Committee's instructions are requested.