



Report to: General Purposes Committee Meeting – 15 September 2022
Director Lead: Matthew Finch, Director – Communities & Environment
Lead Officer: Alan Batty, Business Manager – Public Protection, Extn. 5467

Report Summary	
Report Title	Urgent Review of Taxi Fares
Purpose of Report	To update Members of the taxi fare review carried out and for consideration of the results of the consultation on the proposed fare increase.
Recommendations	That Members consider the options set out in the report and identify the preferred option.
Reason for Recommendation	To ensure that the benefits of the increase were passed on to the trade as soon as possible.

1.0 Background

1.1 At the meeting of the General Purposes Committee in June 2022 it was agreed that:

the Review of Taxi Fares begin with immediate effect, with the Chairman of the Committee being given delegated authority, following appropriate consultation, to make any changes to the fare structure as necessary.

1.2 Officers prepared a number of options for consideration. These were drawn from a number of options proposed by the trade and from Officers. The Chairman and Vice Chairman met with officers and were briefed on the options available when it was agreed that an appropriate increase would be a simple addition of £1.00 to the flag. The flag is the basic cost that is represented on the taximeter prior to the journey commencing. It is currently £2.90 so the increase would take this to £3.90. All other tariffs for subsequent distance would remain unchanged. The current fares (without the increase) are shown as **Appendix One**.

1.3 Taximeters are required to be reset whenever a fare change is made and the approximate cost of this is £25.00 per meter. It was agreed that in order to provide additional assistance to the trade this cost would be met by the Council from its existing budget.

- 1.4 As required by legislation the proposed fare changes have now been advertised to allow representations to be made. Set out below are the comments received.
- 1.5 Clearly the majority of the comments are not supportive of the proposed change, with a larger increase in fares being preferred.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

- 2.1 There are a number of options now available to Members.

Option 1 – ratify the increase as agreed

Option 2 – amend the increase to take account of the consultation comments received. This would then need to be readvertised and any further comments taken into account at the conclusion of the consultation period.

Option 3 – make no amendments to the current tariff

- 2.2 It was envisaged that the fare increase process would be completed without any undue delay to ensure that the benefits of the increase were passed on to the trade as soon as possible. Unfortunately, this may not now be the case.

3.0 Implications

- 3.1 In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered a range of potential implications.

3.2 Financial Implications

The cost of the taximeter adjustments will be met from the existing budget A10814 45227

Background Papers and Published Documents

NSDC Taxi Policy