

## The Highland Licensing Committee

Meeting - 11 December 2014

Agenda Item	6
Report No	HLC/087/14

### Review of Taxi Tariff

#### Report by the Legal Manager

##### Summary

This report invites the Committee to consider when the review of the next taxi tariff should commence.

#### 1.0 Background

1.1 As reported at the meeting of the Highland Licensing Committee on 7 October 2014, following appeal, the Depute Scottish Traffic Commissioner declined to confirm the scales fixed by the Committee on 1 April 2014 and instead altered the scales to those previously fixed on 21 January 2013. Consequently, the scales remained unaltered.

1.2 The Council has a statutory duty, in terms of Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 to review its scales for the fares and other taxi related charges no longer than every 18 months (The review requires to be fully completed within this period).

1.3 There is therefore a statutory duty for the Council to have carried out and completed its next review by March 2016.

1.4 By taking the fully permitted period this would mean that the trade would not have received any taxi fare increase for over three years.

#### 2.0 Process

Following the decision of the Depute Traffic Commissioner and his comments in relation to consultation, meetings of the Taxi/PHC Sub Group will be arranged throughout the Highlands, in Lochaber, Caithness, Easter Ross and Inverness.

At these meetings the taxi/PHC trade will be provided with an opportunity to submit their initial representations in relation to the review of taxi fares and also invited to submit written representations thereafter.

2.1 A tariff review normally takes approximately six months to complete from start to finish (not including any period for Appeals).

2.2 It is suggested that due to the increased meetings to be factored in as detailed in 2.1 above that this consultation period would probably require to be extended by a couple of months to accommodate this.

### **3.0 Recommendation**

3.1 The Committee are invited to consider when the review of the next taxi tariff should commence.

Designation: Legal Manager (Regulatory Services)

Date: 24 November 2014

Author/Reference: Michael Elsey: 12/2/5