

Feedback from the Hackney carriage and Private Hire proposed fee increases

Contact	Comment	Ref	Officers comments and recommendation to include in final version for Full Council
Peter Howell H86	<p>I suspect this may be a theme that you are going to hear from the majority but I at this time would not wish to see any further increase in fees.</p> <p>As we are all aware we are in times of austerity. I'm sure that your department is targeted to make cutbacks and savings where ever you can.</p> <p>Against this we, taxi operators, are facing almost weekly increased costs.</p> <p>A few examples would be fuel, insurance, radio rents, maintenance and tyres.</p> <p>Against this we have seen a drop in overall income over the past two years, and the boom times are longer and longer coming. By boom times in mean Christmas and holiday season.</p> <p>So I would hope that the Council will announce a freeze in the fees until things start to improve.</p>		
Badge 597 Mr Cunningham	In agreement with proposed changes.		
Badge 1092 Mr Mohammed Sawgatur Rahim	No comments.		
Badge 277 Mr Crouchman	A very reasonable set of proposals thank you.		
Badge 792 Mrs Crouchman	A very reasonable set of proposals thank you.		
Badge 1009 K Durham	Increase appears proportionate to current rate of inflation. No objections to increase.		
Badge 940 Mr Lee Hurley	In this very difficult time for everybody with petrol practically doubling in the last five years, rising the fees in any area is totally wrong and does not help anybody. My yearly income has dropped by 30/40%.		

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Badge 135 Mr Powell	<p>Hackney Carriage Vehicle test. Having merged with other authorities, I find it unacceptable that you would even consider raising these changes. Surely the reason for merging was to increase efficiency and effectiveness and reduce costs in all licensing areas. Therefore the costs reductions should be passed on to the end users. The current charge for an MOT test is £54.85. If you multiplied this by 2 and added say £20 to cover the meter test the true cost of the Hackney test should be in the order of £130 nothing like the £280 proposed.</p> <p>Furthermore, The Council has a monopoly on where taxis can be tested which is unfair in terms of competition and contrary to Government guidelines. Since you raised the matter as a consultancy document, please respond to these issues before I take the matter further.</p>		<p>In addition to the steps outlined by Mr. Powell there is also the cost of producing the licences, administration in maintaining the record and enforcement carried out by the Licensing Officers. The provision of enforcement has increased year on year for the past two years.</p>
Badge 715 Rodger Landless	<p>Email: As the challenging financial times are still prevailing, the council could freeze the fees for 12 months and apply them next year when perhaps the austere times have improved.</p> <p>Form: I would have thought in these challenging economic times that perhaps the District Council would have considered freezing the fees for one year and applying these charges next year.</p>		<p>Dear Roger,</p> <p>I understand the need to keep costs as low as possible. The new fees have an average increase of 3% which is less than inflation. Also a couple of the costs have been reduced e.g. replacement plate now £23 and replacement badge £9. These reductions have been able to be made as a result of the Partnership.</p> <p>Hopefully, economic environment permitting, I hope that we can introduce further savings as a result of the Partnership next year.</p>
Badge 888 Mr Wise	<p>I do think fees should stay as they are to go along with current climate. Things are very hard for us all. (BUT) if they go up then we have to go along with that. Thank you for the input.</p>		
Badge 1099 Mr Uddin	<p>I think slightly high. Basically, I think keep all the fees as same as it is.</p>		
Mrs Warner P 44	<p>I acknowledge and accept these prices to be fare.</p>		

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Badge 994 Mr N Cobb	Replacement vehicles – I agree that the annual fee needs to be charged on the new (replacement) vehicle but pro rata rebate should be paid on unused period of previous vehicle, or maybe on set monthly rate for any unused months. The present system encourages owners to keep potentially un roadworthy vehicles on the road for final six months of licence period, as there is no financial incentive to change the vehicle sooner.		Vehicles are checked twice during their year of licence. Therefore there is no likelihood of un roadworthy vehicles being used.
Badge 380 Mr Reeves	All acceptable and good to see plate and badge replacement fees down.		
Badge 468 Mr Philip Cottingham	Although some fees have been held (two minor fees actually reduced) all the major fees have been increased roughly in line with inflation. At a time when business appears to be declining and all other costs are rising, particularly insurance and fuel, I suppose one should be thankful that you have at least shown a degree of restraint in rescheduling your prices.		
Badge 903 Mr Raymond Jackson	Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence – I think that this fee is excessive and unfair when the renewal fee in Maidstone and Tunbridge is considerably less. Their conditions and regulations are identical to ours and they even use the same testing station.		The Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicles are tested at Dunbrik. No other authorities use this testing centre.
Mr R Lock Plate H 57	No objections to all of the proposals.		
Badge 848 Miss J Jones	Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence £280. – Why are we paying £50 more for the same test as Tonbridge and Maidstone?		The licence fee includes two tests (Maidstone only test their vehicle annually), administration in issuing the licence and enforcement.
Badge 1019 Mr Colin Annetts	With 212 Hackney Carriage and 89 Private Hire each paying £272 (to rise to £280) you have an income of £82000p.a. plus drivers 'three year' Licence fees and other bits and pieces. In TOTAL an income of some £97000 to £100,000 per year for Sevenoaks District. I do not see how you can justify these fees when lawfully you should only recover <u>the costs</u> of operating the TAXI Licensing administration.		The increase in income equates to a 3% inflation factor.