

## **HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING: LICENCE FEES 2015/2016**

### **Licensing Committee – 09 March 2015**

Report of Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services

Status: For Decision

Key Decision: No

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#### **This report supports the Key Aim of safer communities**

**Portfolio Holder** Cllr. Ms Lowe (Housing and Community Safety)

**Contact Officer(s)** Mrs. Claire Perry 7325 / 07970 731616

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#### **Recommendation to Licensing Committee:**

That the Licensing Committee approve the list of fees and associated costs for licences in respect of hackney carriage drivers and vehicles and private hire drivers, vehicles and operators be varied as set out in paragraph 4 for implementation from 1 April 2015.

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#### **Reason for recommendation:**

To ensure that the Council complies with its statutory duty and ensure that the 'Taxi Licensing' service remains self-financing, in accordance with the Council's Service and Budget Plan.

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#### **Introduction and Background**

- 1 This taxi licensing service is required to be self-financing and the proposed increases to fees will ensure this is maintained.
- 2 Following the recommendation of the Licensing Committee on 2 February 2015 that the fee levels as set out in paragraph 7 of that report were appropriate for consultation with the taxi trade. An email was sent to those Hackney Carriage proprietors and drivers and Private Hire proprietors, operators and drivers where an email address has been provided. A notice was also placed on the Council's website.
- 3 Following a 28 day consultation period 2 responses were received. These responses are attached as appendix A and are copied below.

Colin Annetts, Badge number H1019

Thank you for the details of the proposed fees for 2015-16.

I am delighted to see just one or two minor increases to existing fees.

Thank you.

Andy Rose, Swantax and Victor Hire

These look OK to me.

4 The proposed fees to be implemented from 1 April 2015 are:

	Existing Fees	New Fees for 2014/15
<b>Hackney Carriage Driver Licence</b>		
<b>On initial application</b>	£169 for three years	£169 for three years
Disclosure Barring Service search fee	£44 every three years or £13 per year if they sign up to the DBS online service	£44 every three years or £13 per year if they sign up to the DBS online service
Total (including DBS fee)	£213 for three years	£213 for three years
<b>On renewal</b>	£122 for three years	£122 for three years
Disclosure Barring Service search fee	£44 every three years or £13 per year if they sign up to the DBS online service	£44 every three years or £13 per year if they sign up to the DBS online service
Total (including DBS fee)	£213 for three years	£213 for three years
<b>Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence</b>	£300 for one year	£300 for one year
<b>Private Hire Operator Licence</b>		
<b>On initial application</b>	£300 for three years	£300 for three years
<b>On renewal</b>	£100 for three years	£100 for three years
<b>Private Hire Driver Licence</b>		
<b>On initial application</b>	£169	£169
Disclosure Barring Service search fee	£44 every three years or £13 per year if they sign up to the DBS online service	£44 every three years or £13 per year if they sign up to the DBS online service
<b>On renewal</b>	£122 for three years	£122 for three years
Disclosure Barring Service	£44 every three years or £13 per year if they sign	£44 every three years or £13 per year if they sign

search fee	up to the DBS online service	up to the DBS online service
Total (including DBS fee)	£213 for three years	£213 for three years
<b>Private Hire Vehicle Licence</b>	£300 for one year	£300 for one year
<b>Additional Costs</b>		
Change from Hackney Carriage to Private Hire	£70	£70
Change from Private Hire to Hackney Carriage	£90	£90
Replace vehicle plate	£23	£23
Replace driver badge	£9	£9.50
Vehicle re-test	£54.85	£54.85
Vehicle partial re-test	£27.43	£27.43
Change of ownership of licensed vehicle	£69	£69
Attempting "Knowledge Test" after <b>one</b> failure	£50	£50
Failure to attend in time for the vehicle test (10 minutes prior to the test start time)	£27.43	£27.43
Failure to attend with correct documentation	£27.43	£27.43
Copy of existing paper licence	£11	£12
Change of address details for a replacement licence	£11	£12
Change of name for a vehicle or operator licence	£11	£12
Change of name <b>and</b> address for a driver badge	£20	£21
Medical fee for a new and renewal driver licence for	£50 for three years payable directly to the	£50 for three years payable directly to the

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire payable directly to The Cedars Surgery	surgery	surgery
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### **Replacement Vehicles**

If a licensed vehicle is replaced during the valid licence period then the cost of licensing the replacement vehicle will be £300. However, if the vehicle is replaced within six months of the issue of the licence then the fee will be reduced by £60.

If a licensed vehicle is replaced temporarily for up to 2 months because of damage to it then the fee will be £99 to test and licence the replacement vehicle and a further £99 to test and re-licence the original vehicle.

### **Other Options Considered and/or Rejected**

- 5 If the Licensing Committee were minded not to approve these fees the Council would not be able to meet the Council's Service and Budget Plan or ensure the Taxi Licensing Service was self-financing.

### **Key Implications**

#### Financial

- 6 The cost of licence fees takes into account the need to maintain a 'self financing' position for the service. The proposed fees contained in this report will achieve this.

#### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

- 7 Should parts of industry believe the authority's fees are at a level which is greater than the costs of the statutory functions then it would be open to them to undertake a judicial review proceeding. Should this arise, the authority would need to evidence how it arrived at the fee levels to demonstrate that they have been calculated on a cost recovery basis only.

#### Equality Impacts

- 8 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

### **Appendices**

Responses received – Appendix A

### **Background Papers:**

Licensing Committee report from 02 February 2015

**Richard Wilson**

**Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services**