

## HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING: LICENCE FEES AND CHARGES 2023/2024

Licensing Committee - 11 January 2023

**Report of:** Chief Officer Planning & Regulatory Services

**Status:** For Decision

**Key Decision:** No

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. McArthur

**Contact Officer:** Susan Lindsey Ext.7491

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

That, having taken into account the information provided by the Senior Licensing Officer, no increase in taxi fees is made for the financial period 2023-24.

### **Reason for recommendation:**

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

### **Introduction and Background**

- 1 At the Licensing Committee held on 28 September 2022 (Minute 4) it was resolved that the current taxi licensing fees (at **Appendix 1**) remain unchanged for the period 2023/24. It was also agreed that an update report forecasting the predicted credit and/or deficit position at the end of the financial year 2022/23 be brought back to this January Licensing Committee.
- 2 A breakdown of the predicted income up to the end of March 2023 is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 3 Members are asked to note that the predicted NEW application numbers are taken from 2021/22 figures. These numbers are similar to those in 2018/19 and 2019/20 (for the purposes of this calculation I have not taken 2020/21

figures into account as the lockdown in place during this financial year was extraordinary, and unlikely to recur.

- 4 The predicted income for this financial year, results in a final credit situation of approximately £4,000. This credit will assist in balancing the 2023/24 financial year expenses, due to a predicted increase in the Licensing Hub Team costs.
- 5 For Members information: please find below licensed driver statistics since 2018 which show a year on year decrease in licensed drivers with this Authority. However, it is predicted for this year (2022/23) a further 15 drivers will become licensed before the end of March 2023.

Driver Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	to 30.11.22
Hackney Carriage	267	255	246	224	189	144
Private Hire	141	122	110	95	90	88
Dual			3	13	42	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>300</b>

## Key Implications

### Financial

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

### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

Should parts of the industry believe the Authority’s fees are at a level which is greater than the costs of the statutory function, then it is 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 Assessment

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

### Net Zero Implications

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council’s ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or

supporting the resilience of the natural environment.

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Current Taxi Licensing Fees (2022/23)

Appendix 2 - Predicted income up to 31 March 2023 (end of financial year)

**Background Papers**

None

**Richard Morris**

**Chief Officer Planning and Regulatory Services**