

COMMUNITY PROTECTION COMMITTEE

DATE	07/03/2023
REPORT OF	Sharon Wroot - Executive Director of Place & Resources
SUBJECT	Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Fees Review
STATUS	Open

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

Stronger Community:

Suitability checks for all licenced drivers, vehicles and operators.

Stronger Economy:

Fees set at a cost recovery level to support the trade without cost to the Authority.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines a review of the fees for the hackney carriage and private hire licensing regime in North East Lincolnshire and proposes new fee structures for implementation in 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Committee approves the new fees set out in appendix 1 for introduction subject to relevant statutory notice procedures.

That in the event the request is approved, subject to statutory public notice, that any objections received pursuant to advertisement be delegated and considered by the Assistant Director (Environment) in consultation with the Chair of Licensing and Community Protection Committee.

REASONS FOR DECISION

To set a new fee structure for the hackney carriage and private hire licensing regime in North East Lincolnshire that is based on cost recovery of the services provided and complies with the requirements of the financial plans agreed by Full Council.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1. The Taxi Licensing Section provides a statutory function for the Council. It administers the licensing system necessary to maintain a taxi fleet, in support

of the Local Transport Plan, and maintains standards and safety to protect the public.

- 1.2. Under the local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (Sections 70 and 53), a Council may charge such fees for the grant of vehicle, driver and operator's licences and recover such fees as are sufficient to cover reasonable administration or other costs in connection with these fees and the control and supervision of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.
- 1.3. All licence fees are reviewed annually to ensure cost recovery and compliance with the above legislation and principles as far as possible. The fees were last amended in 2022.
- 1.4. The cost recovery model, rates of pay and recharge levels used to calculate the fees has been agreed with North East Lincolnshire Council's Finance Department.
- 1.5. The only change to the fees has been to amend the Officer hourly rates and adjust the operational hourly rate from £39 to £46.
- 1.6. Administration and associated costs are non-refundable.
- 1.7. Rises in material costs have not been passed on at this time as we have purchased stock prior to the price increase being implemented, in order to offset an element of the overall fee increases that reflect the current economic climate.
- 1.8. The relatively larger increase to the vehicle renewal fees for 6 month licences, required for vehicles that are over 5 years old, are designed to encourage the use of newer vehicles.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 2.1 There is a risk of crime if administration of the licensing regime is inadequate. Suitable fees are required to fund these activities.
- 2.2 Human rights may be adversely affected if appropriate action is not taken where possible in relation to fees paid by the trade and activity aimed at public protection.
- 2.3 Value for money principles have been used in the formulation of the licensing procedures and associated fees
- 2.4 There is a risk to the social and economic well-being of the Borough if appropriate fees are not set and required work is not undertaken.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Alternative fees could be set but they would not necessarily be at cost recovery.

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

There are potential positive reputational implications in relation to effective implementation of this legislation although the proposed increase in fees may not be well received by some sections of the trade. An action plan has been agreed with the Council's communications service covering information requirements and communication channels to be utilised.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The proposal is consistent with the Council's finance strategy in relation to cost recovery.

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

No Direct Implications

7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Licensing policies aim to reduce emissions levels from the fleet by encouraging the use of newer vehicles.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As outlined within the report the fees are set to fully recover the costs of the service provided.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Under Section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Council charges may cover the cost of inspections and costs relating to the control and supervision of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.
- 9.2 Any decision to increase fees must be advertised 28 days in advance of it coming into effect. If any objections are received within that 28-day period they must be considered before any final determination. If no objections are received the changes will come into force at the end of that period.
- 9.3 It is considered best practice to regularly review fees to ensure a robust and transparent cost recovery basis for such fees.

10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

No implications.

11. WARD IMPLICATIONS

All Wards

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

13. CONTACT OFFICERS

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**SHARON WROOT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PLACE & RESOURCES**

APPENDIX 1 – Proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Fees: 2023 - 2024	Current Fees	New Fees	
New Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers Licence	£282	£312	3 Years
Renewal of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers Licence after 15 th of the Month	£259	£285	3 Years
Renewal of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers Licence up to 15 th of the Month	£220	£239	3 Years
Replacement Drivers Badge	£20	£20	
New Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licence for one year	HC £234 PH £224	HC £257 PH £242	
Renewal of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licence for six months (vehicles over 5 years old)	HC £137 PH £124	HC £187 PH £162	Late applications + £46
Renewal of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licence for one year (vehicles under 5 years old)	HC £215 PH £202	HC £256 PH £231	Late applications + £46
Plate Deposit	£70	£70	
Change of Plate	£44	£46	
Vehicle Inspection	£39	£46	
Door Sign for Private Hire Vehicles	£10 (each)	£10 (each)	
Hackney Carriage or Private Hire advertising on vehicle	£39	£46	
Vehicle Transfers	£39	£46	
New Private Hire Operators Licence (including one vehicle)	£607	£624	5 Years
Renewal Private Hire Operators Licence (including one vehicle)	£555	£597	5 Years
Private Hire Operators Licence – additional vehicles (per car)	£5	£5	
Replacement Tariff Cards & Window Stickers	£20	£20	
Medical Exemption Certificates	£39	£46	
Meter Tests	£20	£20	
Copy Licence or any additional paperwork	£39	£46	

