

Taxi Licensing Fees and Charges 2023/24

Purpose

- 1.1 The report provides information on the proposed licence fees and charges for driver, vehicle and operator licences and other charges for 2023/24

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To approve, subject to the consideration of representations, the proposed licence fees and charges for driver, vehicle and operator licences and other charges for 2023/24 as set out at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 To request the Service Director of Public Protection and Streetpride to advertise the proposed fees and charges.
- 2.3 To delegate to the Service Director of Public Protection and Streetpride following consultation with the Chair, to consider any representations received within the required period and to take appropriate action if required to address such representations.
- 2.4 To approve the new licence fees and charges to become effective from 1 April 2023, subject to there not being any representations received during the required period, or where any such representations have been considered.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 The hackney carriage and private hire licensing fees and charges are reviewed regularly to ensure the total costs incurred in providing the services are recovered.
- 3.2 In previous years, the Council has been able to subsidise the costs of the taxi licensing service through internal savings. However, due to the current economic climate and the successful recruitment of additional team members to enhance the service, it is not possible to fully subsidise the costs this year. It is therefore necessary to raise the fees to cover the service on a costs recoverable basis for the forthcoming financial year, 2023/2024.
- 3.3 The proposed licence fees and charges must be advertised, and any objections or representations received must be considered by the Council.

Supporting information

- 4.1 Separate accounts must be kept for each type of licence issued; namely those for hackney carriage drivers, hackney carriage vehicles, private hire drivers, private hire vehicles and private hire operators.
- 4.2 The proposed licence fees and charges for driver, vehicle and operator licences and other charges for 2023/24 are set out in Appendix 1.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 The Council is required to publish in a local newspaper the proposals for changes to the level of driver, vehicle and operator fees. Any objections or representations must be lodged within 28 days from the date of the publication and considered by the Council.
- 5.2 Where a representation is made and not withdrawn, the Council must consider it. In the event of this occurring, any matters that may arise can be considered at the next scheduled meeting of the Licensing Committee.

Other options

- 6.1 None. Fees and charges need to be set at a level to recover the total costs incurred in providing the service.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 The proposed fees and charges have been set at a level to recover the full cost of providing the current taxi licensing service.
- 7.2 Any mid-year changes to the administrative process that impact on costs will be contained within existing budgets.

Legal implications

- 8.1 Sections 53 and 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (“the Act”) allow the Council to charge fees for the grant of licences in respect of hackney carriage and private hire drivers, vehicles and operators. The legislation and relevant case law specify the elements that can be included in the cost of the licence fee.
- 8.2 In accordance with the requirements set out in section 70(3)(b) of the Act, before certain new fees and charges are introduced, the Council is required to publish them in a local newspaper. Any representations must be lodged within 28 days from the date of the publication.

Climate implications

- 9.1 None directly arising from this report.

Other significant implications

10.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Lionel Desi	16/01/2023
Finance	Janice Hadfield	18/01/2023
Service Director(s)	Samantha Dennis	09/01/2023
Report sponsor		
Other(s)		

Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	1) Proposed licence fees & charges for driver, vehicle & operator licences and other charges for 2023/24

Appendix 1

PROPOSED LICENCE FEES & CHARGES FOR DRIVER, VEHICLE & OPERATOR LICENCES AND OTHER CHARGES FOR 2023/24

	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Vehicle Licences		
Annual Private Hire Vehicle (New & Renewal)	£83.00	£104.00
Annual Hackney Carriage (Renewal)	£99.00	£124.00
Annual Hackney Carriage (New) incl. internal, quarter-light stickers & fitting	£169.00	£211.00
Executive Exemption		
New / Renewal for Exemption Certificate	£129.00	£161.00
Existing Private Hire Vehicle Exemption Certificate	£76.00	£95.00
Private Hire Operators Licence (Per Vehicle)	£90.00	£113.00
Driver Licences		
*Annual Hackney Carriage Driver / Dual Badge	£106.00	£133.00
*Annual Private Hire Driver	£106.00	£133.00
Three-Year Hackney Carriage Driver / Dual Badge	£289.00	£361.00
Three-Year Private Hire Driver	£289.00	£361.00
New Hackney Carriage (Dual)/Private Hire Driver and Hackney / Private Hire Vehicle Application Administration Fee	£50.00	£63.00
Knowledge Test Fee	£94.00	£117.50
Hackney Carriage Drive Test Fee	£51.00	£64.00
Prescribed Mandatory Safeguarding Training Fee	£30.00	£37.50
Enhanced Disclosure and Barring (DBS) Check (incl. Admin Fee)	£57.00	£71.00
Changing dates of knowledge tests / safeguarding training dates	£10.00	£12.50
Change of vehicle registration number	£27.00	£34.00
Change of vehicle records	£16.00	£20.00
Other requests for information that fall outside subject access	£27.00	£34.00
Document Replacement	£24.00	£30.00
Replacement Badges	£19.00	£24.00
Replacement Plates	£28.00	£35.00
Replacement Hackney Carriage Quarter Light Stickers (incl. fitting)	£56.00	£70.00
Replacement Hackney Carriage Internal Signs	£38.00	£48.00