

**LICENSING COMMITTEE**  
**27 June 2024**



Report sponsor: Charles Edwards, Director of Communities

Report author: Angela Rawson, Service Manager, Licensing

# ITEM 7

## **Taxi Licensing Fees and Charges 2024/25**

### **Purpose**

- 1.1 The report provides information on the proposed licence fees and charges for driver, vehicle and operator licences and other charges for 2024/25. Whilst normally this process should have concluded earlier in the year to enable the fees to come into effect at the start of the 2024/25 administrative year, the challenge at advert stage has meant that it has not been possible to achieve this. Agreed fees will become effective with immediate effect until the end of March 2025

### **Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 To approve the proposed licence fees and charges for driver, vehicle and operator licences and ancillary charges for 2024/25 as set out at Appendix 1 as previously advertised.

### **Reason(s)**

- 3.1 To comply with the regulatory process for licence fee reviews, ensuring that a compliant process had been followed that provides a facility for relevant stakeholders to be consulted and for their representations, if any, to be considered prior to new fees being introduced

### **Supporting information**

- 4.1 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. These licensing functions are self-financing and non-profit making.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 The taxi licensing budget working paper for 2024/25 that sets out the methodology undertaken in calculating the proposed fees is attached at Appendix 2.

- 4.4 In previous years, the Council has been able to hold the costs of the taxi licensing service through internal savings however, it is not possible to hold the costs this year. It is therefore necessary to raise some of the fees to cover the service on a costs recoverable basis for the forthcoming financial year, 2024/25.
- 4.5 The proposed licence fees and charges for driver, vehicle and operator licences and other charges for 2024/25 are set out in Appendix 1 with the financial calculations at Appendix 2.
- 4.6 Notice of the proposed licence fees and charges were advertised in the Derby Telegraph on 1 February 2024 and on 28 February 2024 a relevant objection from a licence holder was received by the Council. An anonymised copy of the objection is attached at Appendix 3.
- 4.7 The objection is focussed around the process used to adopt the new fee schedule in that the Committee was not presented with the fee calculations to help inform committee's decision, nor did committee request to see them.
- 4.8 Whilst the information was not provided in the report to the Committee in January 2024 it was available and is now provided at Appendix 2 demonstrating that the proposed change in fees and the decision to increase them was lawfully made.
- 4.9 Conversations have taken place with the stakeholder concerned and at the time of writing, the objection still remains outstanding. An update will therefore be provided to committee setting out the outcome of those discussions when this report is presented and how if at all it impacts on the advertised fees.

### **Public/stakeholder engagement**

- 5.1 The Council published in a local newspaper the proposals for changes to driver, vehicle and operator fees with a 28 day objection period for responses.
- 5.2 As a representation was made and not withdrawn, the Council must consider it and make a decision to enable the new fees to come into effect.

### **Other options**

- 6.1 Not implementing the new fee structure which would mean that the costs of running the service would not be recouped.

### **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 identify what can, and what cannot, lawfully 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               | Olu Idowu       | 19/6/2024        |
| Finance             |                 |                  |
| Service Director(s) | Charles Edwards | 18/06/2024       |
| Report sponsor      |                 |                  |
| Other(s)            |                 |                  |

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Background papers:</b>  | None  |
| <b>List of appendices:</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Proposed licence fees &amp; charges for driver, vehicle &amp; operator licences and other charges for 2024/25</li> <li>2) Financial working document</li> <li>3) Anonymised Representation from a licence holder</li> </ol> |

## Appendix 1

### PROPOSED LICENCE FEES & CHARGES FOR DRIVER, VEHICLE & OPERATOR LICENCES AND OTHER CHARGES FOR 2024/25

|   | Current Fee | Proposed Fee |
|---|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Vehicle Licences</b>   |             |              |
| Annual Private Hire Vehicle (New & Renewal)   | £104.00     | £123.00      |
| Annual Hackney Carriage (Renewal)   | £124.00     | £146.00      |
| Annual Hackney Carriage (New) incl. internal, quarter-light stickers & fitting                                    | £211.00     | £249.00      |
| <b>Executive Exemption</b>  |             |              |
| New / Renewal for Exemption Certificate   | £161.00     | £168.00      |
| Existing Private Hire Vehicle Exemption Certificate   | £131.00     | £150.00      |
| <b>Private Hire Operators Licence (Per Vehicle)</b>   | £113.00     | £133.00      |
| <b>Driver Licences</b>  |             |              |
| *Annual Hackney Carriage Driver / Dual Badge  | £133.00     | £157.00      |
| *Annual Private Hire Driver   | £133.00     | £157.00      |
| Three-Year Hackney Carriage Driver / Dual Badge   | £361.00     | £426.00      |
| Three-Year Private Hire Driver  | £361.00     | £426.00      |
| New Hackney Carriage (Dual)/Private Hire Driver and Hackney / Private Hire Vehicle Application Administration Fee | £63.00      | £63.00       |
| Knowledge Test Fee  | £117.50     | £150.00      |
| Hackney Carriage Drive Test Fee   | £64.00      | £90.00       |
| Prescribed Mandatory Safeguarding Training Fee  | £37.50      | £50.00       |
| Enhanced Disclosure and Barring (DBS) Check (incl. Admin Fee)   | £71.00      | £62.00       |
| Changing dates of knowledge tests / safeguarding training dates   | £12.50      | £15.00       |
| Change of vehicle registration number   | £34.00      | £40.00       |
| Change of vehicle records   | £20.00      | £25.00       |
| Subject access data request for information   | £12.50      | £12.50       |
| Other requests for information that fall outside subject access   | £34.00      | £50.00       |
| Document Replacement  | £30.00      | £35.00       |
| Replacement Badges  | £24.00      | £35.00       |

|   |        |        |
|---|--------|--------|
| Replacement Plates  | £35.00 | £45.00 |
| Replacement Hackney Carriage Quarter Light Stickers (incl. fitting) | £70.00 | £70.00 |
| Replacement Hackney Carriage Internal Signs                         | £48.00 | £48.00 |
| Replacement Exemption Certificate                                   | £44.00 | £35.00 |
| Replacement Exemption Plate   | £47.00 | £45.00 |