

<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Non-Statutory Licensing Committee</b> 27 May 2020
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<b>Report title</b>	Revision of fees for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing functions for 2020-2021	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Ross Cook, Director for City Environment	
<b>Originating service</b>	Licensing Services	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Chris Howell	Commercial Regulation Manager
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	None	

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**Recommendations for decision:**

The Non-Statutory Licensing Committee is recommended to:

1. Approve the proposed fees and charges for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Drivers as set out in Appendix 1 with effect from 1 June 2020.
2. Approve the proposed fees and charges for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles as set out in Appendix 2 with effect from 1 June 2020.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To gain approval for a mid-term reduction in application fees for licences relating to hackney carriages, private hire vehicles and drivers.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Council is empowered by statute to levy fees and charges in respect of licences for hackney carriages, private hire vehicles, drivers and their operators. The fees charged must be reasonable in relation to costs incurred in the issue, administration and enforcement of such licences. Council policy is that fees and charges should be reviewed annually and reflect the cost of providing the service.
- 2.2 A fees and charges report was presented to this committee on 22 January 2020 setting out the reasons for the setting of fees for the 2020-2021 period. Within that report there contained provision for schemes that were to soon be undertaken in the amount of an estimated £600,000. The report also indicated an overspend for the current financial year.
- 2.3 Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, and the lockdown, the schemes will not be undertaken in the time period suggested. Furthermore, there was no end of year overspend.

## **3.0 Proposals for 2020-2021 driver fees**

- 3.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Section 53 refers to the driver licence fees and states that the fee must be based on the cost of issue and administration of a driver licence. This includes staffing, accommodation, stationery and other such associated costs.
- 3.2 It is proposed to reduce the driver fees as shown below, commencing 1 June 2020
- Hackney Carriage/Private Hire 1 year renewal from £59 to £40
  - Hackney Carriage/Private Hire 2 year renewal from £110 to £75
  - Hackney Carriage/Private Hire 3 year renewal from £140 to £100

It is not proposed to change any other driver related fee. The proposed fees and charges for, Hackney Carriage and Private Hire, Vehicle Driver Licences, commencing 1 June 2020 is set out in Appendix 1.

## **4.0 Proposals for 2019-2020 Vehicle Fees**

- 4.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Section 70 refers to the vehicle and operator licence fees and states that the fee must cover:

- the reasonable cost of the carrying out by or on behalf of the district council of inspections of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles for the purpose of determining whether any such licence should be granted or renewed;
- the reasonable cost of providing hackney carriage stands; and
- any reasonable administrative or other costs in connection with the foregoing and with the control and supervision of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles.

4.2 It is proposed to reduce the vehicle licensing fees as shown below, commencing 1 June 2020.

- Up to 10 years old, 1 year from £185 to £135.

It is not proposed to change any other vehicle related fee. The proposed fees and charges for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licences, commencing 1 June 2020 is set out in Appendix 2.

4.3 It is not proposed to change Operator fees.

## **5.0 Financial implications**

5.1 Reducing the driver fee by £19 for 18,000 drivers will place a draw on the reserves of £342,000. Reducing the vehicle fee by £50 for 12,000 vehicles will place a draw on the reserves of £600,000.

5.2 Should the Licensing Committee agree with the recommendations in this report it is anticipated that overall income from the proposed fees and charges in Appendices 1 and 2 will cover the estimated cost of providing the service.  
[C/11052020/V]

## **6.0 Legal implications**

6.1 Section 53 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 deals with drivers' licences for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. It permits the Council to recover such a fee as they consider reasonable with a view to recovering the costs of issue and administration.

6.2 Section 70 of the 1976 Act provides that a district council may charge such fees for the grant of vehicle and operators' licences as may be resolved by them to cover the cost of providing stands and reasonable administrative or other costs in connection with the control and supervision of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.

Section 70 (3)(a) provides that if the district Council determines that fees should be varied they should publish a notice in a local newspaper. A notice was published regarding the 22 January 2020 report and no objections were received. Fees are being reduced significantly and a further notice has not been published.

- 6.3 The fees charged must be reasonable in relation to costs incurred in the issue, administration and enforcement of such licences.  
[SH/15052020/B]

## **7.0 Equalities implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

## **8.0 Climate change and environmental implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct climate change and environmental implications arising from this report.

## **9.0 Covid Implications**

- 9.1 There are no Covid implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## **10.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 10.1 Licensing Committee - 16 January 2013 - Fees and charges for hackney carriage and private hire licensing functions 2013-2014.

Licensing Committee - 26 February 2014 - Fees and charges for hackney carriage and private hire licensing functions 2014-2015.

Licensing Committee - 21 January 2015 - Fees and charges for hackney carriage and private hire licensing functions 2015-2016.

Licensing Committee – 22 July 2015 – Revisions to hackney carriage and private hire vehicle, driver and operator criteria.

Licensing Committee – 20 January 2016 – Fees and charges for hackney carriage and private hire licensing functions 2016-2017.

Licensing Committee – 8 February 2017 – Review of Fees and Charges for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing functions for 2017-2018.

Licensing Committee – 29 November 2017 - Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Driver's and Operator's Right to Work Checks

Licensing Committee – 24 January 2018 - Review of Fees and Charges for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing functions for 2018-2019.

Licensing Committee – 20 March 2019 - Review of Fees and Charges for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing functions for 2019-2020.

This report is PUBLIC  
[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Licensing Committee – 22 January 2020 – Review of Fees and Charges for Hackney Carriage and Private hire Licensing function for 2020-2021.