



Licensing Committee

21 January 2015

Report Title	Fees and Charges for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing functions for 2015/16	
Accountable Strategic Director	Tim Johnson Education and Enterprise	
Originating service	Licensing Services	
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Recommendation:

The Licensing Committee are recommended to:

- (i) Approve the proposed fees and charges for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Drivers as set out in Appendix A with effect from 1 April 2015.
- (ii) Approve the proposed fees and charges for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles as set out in Appendix B with effect from 1 April 2015.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To approve the proposed fees and charges for licences relating to hackney carriages, private hire vehicles, drivers and private hire vehicle operators for 2015/16.

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 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.

3.0 Proposals for 2015/16

- 3.1 The proposals for 2015/16 have been developed in accordance with Council policy and the desire to minimise costs to the private hire and hackney carriage trade whilst ensuring that public safety is not compromised and the vehicle licensing function operates on a cost neutral basis.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the existing fees and charges for drivers, vehicles and operators for the current year 2014/15 remain unchanged for the coming year 2015/16. As the cost of providing the service would be met by the anticipated income for 2015/16 without any requirement to increase fees and charges.
- 3.3 On 18 June 2014 the Licensing Committee resolved to extend the initial approval fee of £150 for existing approved VOSA garages to be registered for the testing of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles until 31 March 2015 and to be included in 2015/16 fees and charges report.
- 3.4 It is proposed that the approval fee for VOSA registered garages to be registered as a facility for testing hackney carriage and private hire vehicles also remains unchanged for 2015/16.

4.0 Driver fees

- 4.1 It is proposed that the existing fees for driver licences detailed at Appendix A of this report remain the same for 2015/16.
- 4.2 The cost of new and third year Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are not covered by this report as they are determined by Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
- 4.3 The fee currently charged for an enhanced DBS disclose is £65 which includes administration costs. The DBS has indicated that there is no proposal to increase the fee at this time. However, if the fee is increased this will automatically be passed onto drivers.

- 4.4 On 20 November 2013 the Licensing Committee approved that applicants submitting an online DBS application be charged £46 as this reduced administration time to process and verify the application by the Licensing Officer.
- 4.5 Worcestershire County Council in partnership with Wolverhampton City Council deliver the Driver Training Scheme for new hackney carriage and private hire vehicle driver applicants. Worcestershire County Council incur all the costs associated with the training and receive all the income from drivers.
- 4.6 Worcestershire County Council have indicated that they do not intend to increase their charges for 2015/16 due to the current economic climate.

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. [SH/02012015/W].

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 It is envisaged that although it is not proposed to increase the fees and charges for the coming year 2015/16, the costs of providing the service will be met providing the number of licences remain at the current level. [TK/09012015/H]

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 The pricing structure for vehicles may act as an incentive for proprietors and operators to use newer vehicles which are generally, due to national vehicle emissions requirements less polluting than older vehicles.

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 There are equalities implications arising from this report in that the reduced fees for persons on Job Seekers Allowance directly benefit potentially lower income applicants.

9.0 Schedule of background papers

- 9.1 Licensing Committee 16 January 2013 - Fees and charges for hackney carriage and private hire licensing functions 2013/14.

Licensing Committee 26 February 2014 - Fees and charges for hackney carriage and private hire licensing functions 2014/15.

APPENDIX A

PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCES 2015/16

	LICENCE TYPE/FUNCTION	EXISTING CHARGE 2014/15 £	PROPOSED CHARGE 2015/16 £
1.	DRIVERS		
	(i) Hackney Carriage/Private Hire 1 Year New	77	77
	(ii) Hackney Carriage/Private Hire 1 Year Renewal	77	77
	(iii) Job Seekers Allowance 1 Year New	35	35
	(iv) Hackney Carriage/Private Hire 3 Year New/Renewal	194	194
	(v) New/Renewal Dual Hackney Carriage/Private Hire	105	105
	(vi) New 3 year Dual Hackney Carriage/Private Hire	240	240
	(vii) Conversion from Hackney Carriage/Private Hire to Dual Licence.	80 (plus testing fees)	80 (plus testing fees)
	(viii) Hackney Carriage/Private Hire New Applicants One Day Driver Training Course/Test	75	75
	(ix) Hackney Carriage/Private Hire New Applicants Driver Training Immediate Re-test	21	21
	(x) Hackney Carriage / Private Hire New Applicants One Day Driver Training Re-sit	75	75
	(xi) Hackney Carriage/Private Hire New Applicants Practical Driving Assessment	79	79

APPENDIX B

	LICENCE TYPE/FUNCTION	EXISTING CHARGE 2014/15 £	PROPOSED CHARGE 2015/16 £
2.	VEHICLES Hackney Carriage (i) 0 to 6 yrs old 1 Year or 1 st 6 Months 2 nd 6 Months (ii) Over 6 yrs old and under 16 yrs old 1 Year or 1 st 6 Months 2 nd 6 Months	 285 170 170 361 206 206	 285 170 170 361 206 206
	Private Hire (i) 0 to 6 yrs old 1 Year or 1 st 6 Months 2 nd 6 Months (ii) Over 6 yrs old and under 12 yrs old 1 Year or 1 st 6 Months 2 nd 6 Months	 285 170 170 361 206 206	 285 170 170 361 206 206
3.	PRIVATE HIRE OPERATORS (i) New (ii) Renewal	 1077 785	 1077 785
4.	HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE TESTING FACILITIES Council approved VOSA registered garages.	 150	 150