

# COMMUNITY PROTECTION COMMITTEE

<b>DATE</b>	<b>13/03/2024</b>
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Carolina Borgstrom Director of Economy, Environment & Infrastructure
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Fees Review
<b>STATUS</b>	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 2024.

## 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 2023.
- 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. Administration and associated costs are non-refundable.
- 1.6. Rises in material costs have had to be passed on, on this occasion.
- 1.7. 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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**CAROLINA BORGSTROM  
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE**

<b>APPENDIX 1 – Proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Fees: 2024 - 2025</b>	<b>Current Fees</b>	<b>New Fees</b>	
New Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers Licence	£312	£322	3 Years
Renewal of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers Licence after 15 <sup>th</sup> of the Month	£285	£294	3 Years
Renewal of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers Licence up to 15 <sup>th</sup> of the Month	£239	£246	3 Years
Replacement Drivers Badge	£20	£22	
New Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licence for one year	HC £257 PH £242	HC £269 PH £253	
Renewal of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licence for six months (vehicles over 5 years old)	HC £153 PH £139	HC £166 PH £150	Late applications + £48
Renewal of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licence for one year (vehicles under 5 years old)	HC £237 PH £222	HC £248 PH £233	Late applications + £48
Plate Deposit	£70	£73	
Change of Plate	£46	£48	
Vehicle Inspection	£46	£48	
Door Sign for Private Hire Vehicles	£10 (each)	£11 (each)	
Hackney Carriage or Private Hire advertising on vehicle	£46	£48	
Vehicle Transfers	£46	£48	
New Private Hire Operators Licence (including one vehicle)	£624	£649	5 Years
Renewal Private Hire Operators Licence (including one vehicle)	£597	£622	5 Years
Private Hire Operators Licence – additional vehicles (per car)	£5	£6	
Replacement Tariff Cards & Window Stickers	£20	£22	
Medical Exemption Certificates	£46	£48	
Meter Tests	£20	£22	
<u>Copy Licence or any additional paperwork</u>	<u>£46</u>	£48	