

Taxis Committee – 17th March 2010

Report of the Director of Corporate Resources and Interim Director of Finance

Licence Fees

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the fees to be charged for the grant and renewal of a three year private hire or/and hackney carriage drivers licence.

Background

2. The Committee resolved at their meeting of the 10th February 2010 that a three year private hire or a hackney carriage drivers licence would be granted at a fee of £335.00. Unfortunately, the table showing the full proposals for the fees to be charged in respect of three year licences was omitted from the report dated 10th February 2010.
3. The proposals for the fees are as detailed below:-

	Dudley	Sandwell	Wolverhampton	Birmingham
Grant of 3 Year Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence	£335	£344	Do not issue 3 year licences	£172.00 plus knowledge test - £67.00 folder - £17.00 Driving Test - £50.00
Renewal	£267	£344		1 Year - £86.00 2 Year - £172.00 3 Year – £258.00
Grant of 3 year Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence together	£475	£495		
Renewal of 3 year Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence together	£407	£495		

4. The Council is only permitted to set licensing fees for taxis and hackney carriages up to the amount that can be ascertained as being the cost of administering the licensing function. This includes enforcement, administration and ancillary costs relating to Members meeting to determine certain licensing applications.
5. The cost of licence and administration stated in this report includes the enforcement and administrative costs of processing all licences including gaming and liquor but does not include any costs relating to Members.

Finance

6. There are no financial implications in respect of this additional information. All financial considerations were presented in the report brought to this Committee on 10th February and remain unchanged.

Law

7. Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 regulates the grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licences.
8. In pursuance of Section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976:
 - (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, a district council may charge such fees for the grant of vehicle and operators' licences as may be resolved by them from time to time and as may be sufficient in the aggregate to cover in whole or in part-
 - (a) the reasonable cost of 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;
 - (b) the reasonable cost of providing hackney carriage stands; and
 - (c) any reasonable administrative or other costs in connection with the foregoing and with the control and supervision of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles.
 - (2) The fees chargeable under this section shall not exceed-
 - (a) for the grant of a vehicle licence in respect of a hackney carriage, twenty-five pounds;
 - (b) for the grant of a vehicle licence in respect of a private hire vehicle, twenty-five pounds; and
 - (c) for the grant of an operator's licence, twenty-five pounds per annum;

or in any such case, such other sums as a district council may, subject to the following provisions of this section, from time to time determine.

- (3) (a) If a district council determine that the maximum fees specified in subsection (2) of this section should be varied they shall publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district a notice setting out the variation proposed, drawing attention to the provisions of paragraph (b) of this subsection and specifying the period, which shall not be less than twenty-eight days from the date of the first publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which objections to the variation can be made.
- (b) A copy of the notice referred to in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall for the period of twenty-eight days from the date of the first publication thereof be deposited at the offices of the council which published the notice and shall at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment.
- (4) If no objection to a variation is duly made within the period specified in the notice referred to in subsection (3) of this section, or if all objections so made are withdrawn, the variation shall come into operation on the date of the expiration of the period specified in the notice or the date of withdrawal of the objection or, if more than one, of the last objection, whichever date is the later.
- (5) If objection is duly made as aforesaid and is not withdrawn, the district council shall set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date, on which the variation shall come into force with or without modification as decided by the district council after consideration of the objections.
- (6) A district council may remit the whole or part of any fee chargeable in pursuance of this section for the grant of a licence under section 48 or 55 of this Act in any case in which they think it appropriate to do so.

Equality Impact

9. The proposals take into account the Council's policy in relation to equal opportunities.
10. There has been no consultation or involvement of children and young people in developing these proposals.

Recommendation

11. That the Committee consider the proposed fees in respect of the issuing of three year private hire and hackney carriage licences.



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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

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List of Background Papers