

Taxis Committee – 21st March 2007

**Report of the Director of Law and Property
And the Director of Finance**

Revision of Licence Fees

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the revision of fees for private hire and hackney carriage licences administered by the Committee.

Background

2. The fees for private hire and hackney carriage licences administered by the Committee were last revised with effect from April 2006.
3. Fees received in respect of private hire and hackney carriage licences are not refunded if the application is withdrawn or refused.
4. In considering the revision of licence fees, the Committee may wish to compare the fees charged by the Council with those of neighbouring Councils. A table showing these comparisons is attached as Appendix 1.
5. All vehicles are required to pass a mechanical test at the Council's Lister Road Depot before they are licensed as private hire vehicles or hackney carriages. The fees for these tests, are collected by the Licensing Section, on behalf of the Directorate of the Urban Environment.
6. The Senior Policy and Communications Officer, Directorate of the Urban Environment, has requested the following increased fees to reflect increased service costs, as shown overleaf, should be considered by the Committee:-

Full Mechanical Test

Current Fee	£46.00	Proposed Fee	£57.80
-------------	--------	--------------	--------

Retest

Current Fee	£20.00	Proposed Fee	£23.40
-------------	--------	--------------	--------

Special Events Vehicles

Current Fee	£85.00	Proposed Fee	£87.60
-------------	--------	--------------	--------

Retest

Current Fee	£43.00	Proposed Fee	£44.30
-------------	--------	--------------	--------

7. Column (1) in Table A below represents the fees currently charged.

Column (2) shows the effect on fees of an increase of 2% that reflects budgeted cost increases only

Column (2a) shows the effect on fees after the addition of test fees.

Column (3) shows the effect on fees of the budgeted cost increase at 2% plus 1%.

Column (3a) shows the effect on fees after the addition of test fees.

Column (4) shows the effect on fees of the budgeted cost increase at 2% plus 2%.

Column (4a) shows the effect on fees after the addition of test fees.

Column (5) shows the effect on fees of the budgeted cost increase at 2% plus 3%.

Column (5a) shows the effect on fees after the addition of test fees.

TABLE A

LICENCE TYPE	Fees currently charged	(2) Budgeted cost increase 2%	(2a) Budgeted cost increase + test fees	(3) Budgeted cost increase + 1%	(3a) Budgeted cost increase + 1% + test fees	(4) Budgeted cost increase + 2%	(4a) Budgeted cost increase + 2% + test fees	(5) Budgeted cost increase + 3%	(5a) Budgeted cost increase + 3% + test fees
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Hackney Carriage Vehicle	169.00	172.00	183.80	174.00	185.80	176.00	187.80	177.00	188.80
Plate Deposit	34.00	35.00		35.00		35.00		35.00	
Vehicle Retest	36.00	37.00	40.40	37.00	40.40	37.00	40.40	38.00	41.40
4/6 Month Test	109.00	111.00	122.80	112.00	123.80	113.00	124.80	114.00	125.80
Private Hire Vehicle	169.00	172.00	183.80	174.00	185.80	176.00	187.80	177.00	188.80
Plate Deposit	34.00	35.00		35.00		35.00		36.00	
Vehicle Retest	36.00	37.00	40.40	37.00	40.40	37.00	40.40	38.00	41.40
4/6 Month Test	109.00	111.00	122.80	112.00	123.80	113.00	124.80	114.00	125.80
Mid-term Vehicle Licence Production of Insurance	28.00	29.00		29.00		29.00		29.00	
Admin Fee if Application Not Made 48 Hours Before Enquiry	38.00	39.00		39.00		40.00		40.00	
Cancelled Lister Road	63.00	64.00	75.80	65.00	76.80	66.00	77.80	66.00	77.80
Admin Fee	29.00	30.00		30.00		30.00		30.00	
CRB	46.00	47.00		47.00		48.00		48.00	
Private Hire Driver Grant	153.00	156.00		158.00		159.00		161.00	
Badge Deposit	9.00	9.00		9.00		9.00		9.00	
Renewal	91.00	93.00		94.00		95.00		96.00	
Hackney Carriage Driver Grant	153.00	156.00		158.00		159.00		161.00	
Badge	9.00	9.00		9.00		9.00		9.00	
Renewal	91.00	93.00		94.00		95.00		96.00	
Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver Grant – applied together	193.00	197.00		199.00		201.00		203.00	
Renewal	127.00	130.00		131.00		132.00		133.00	
Badge	20.00	20.00		21.00		21.00		21.00	
Private Hire Operator	328.00	335.00		338.00		341.00		344.00	
Renewal	328.00	335.00		338.00		341.00		344.00	
Repeat Knowledge/ Driving Test	61.00	62.00		63.00		63.00		64.00	
Disabled Training – Course Fee	21.00	22.00		22.00		22.00		22.00	
Disabled Training – Admin Fee	5.00	5.00		5.00		5.00		5.00	
Special Events Vehicle	250.00	255.00	257.60	258.00	260.60	260.00	262.60	263.00	265.60
Retest	59.00	60.00	61.30	61.00	62.30	61.00	62.30	62.00	63.30
Plate Deposit	34.00	35.00		35.00		35.00		36.00	

8. The Council is only permitted to set licensing fees up to the amount that can be ascertained as being the cost of administering the licensing function. This includes enforcement, the administrative and ancillary costs of issuing the licence and the ancillary costs relating to members meeting to determine certain licensing applications.
9. The cost of licence administration stated in paragraph 14 - 19 of this report, includes the enforcement and administrative costs of processing the licences but does not include any costs relating to Members.
10. The changes in the vehicle testing policy, which were implemented in July 2004, had cost implications. The costs of the awareness pack, including translation and the Enforcement Officers visiting Taxi/Private Hire Bases to assist in the understanding of the pack were absorbed by the Licensing Department. However, from July 2004, vehicles over the age of 8 years old require mechanically testing at Lister Road three times a year, as follows:-

<u>Age of Vehicle</u>	<u>Number of Tests</u>	<u>Costs</u>
Up to 6 years old	1 Test	£169.00
Over 6 years old	2 Tests	1) £169.00
		2) <u>£109.00</u>
		Total <u>£278.00</u>

From July 2004:-

Over 8 years old	3 Tests	1) £169.00
		2) £109.00
		3) <u>£109.00</u>
		Total <u>£387.00</u>

11. The third test is a comprehensive mechanical test as are the current first and second tests. Therefore the third test fee is charged at the same rate as the current second test fee.
12. The private hire/hackney carriage trade have been consulted with regard to the fees.
13. The comments which have been received from the Hackney Carriage Association together with the reply from Mr Peter Lloyd (Policy and Compliance Manager) Transport Services are attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

Finance

14. The financial implications in respect of the fees for private hire and hackney carriage licences as set out in Table A above are as follows overleaf:-

15. Option 1:

Present fee level increased by budgeted cost increases (2%)

	£'000s	£'000s
Cost of Licence Administration		502
Less: Income:		
Hackney Carriage Licences	330	
Street Trading	3	
Betting and Gaming	19	
Liquor	<u>145</u>	<u>497</u>
Net cost of Licensing Administration		<u>5</u>

16. Option 2:

Present fee level increased by budgeted cost increases (2%) plus 1% (3%)

	£'000s	£'000s
Cost of Licence Administration		502
Less: Income:		
Hackney Carriage Licences	333	
Street Trading	3	
Betting and Gaming	19	
Liquor	<u>145</u>	<u>500</u>
Net cost of Licensing Administration		<u>2</u>

17. Option 3:

Present fee level increased by budgeted cost increases (2%) plus 2% (4%)

	£'000s	£'000s
Cost of Licence Administration		502
Less: Income:		
Hackney Carriage Licences	337	
Street Trading	3	
Betting and Gaming	19	
Liquor	<u>145</u>	<u>504</u>
Net cost (surplus) of Licensing Administration		<u>(2)</u>

18. Option 4:

Present fee level increased by budgeted cost increases (2%) plus 3% (5%)

	£'000s	£'000s
Cost of Licence Administration		502
Less:		
Income:		
Hackney Carriage Licences	340	
Street Trading	3	
Betting and Gaming	19	
Liquor	<u>145</u>	<u>507</u>
Net cost (surplus) of Licensing Administration		<u>(5)</u>

19. The net cost of licence administration is included in the Legal and Property Services budget.

Law

20. Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 regulates the grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licences.

Equality Impact

21. The proposals take into account the Council's policy in relation to equal opportunities.

22. There has been no consultation or involvement of children and young people in developing these proposals

Recommendation


23. That the Committee consider the revision of fees.

Background Papers

24. None.



.....
DIRECTOR OF LAW AND PROPERTY



.....
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Contact Officer: janet.elliott@dudley.gov.uk

LICENCE/PERMIT	DUDLEY	WOLVERHAMPTON	SANDWELL	BIRMINGHAM
Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence				
Grant	£153.00 (1 year) + £9.00 badge deposit	Grant/Third Renewal £112.00	£143.00	£168.00
Renewal	£91.00	£66.00 knowledge re-test £21.00	£138.00	£84.00
When applied for together				
Grant	£193.00 + £20.00 badge deposit		£192.00	-----
Renewal	£127.00		Badge Deposit £30.00	-----
Disabled training Disabled training admin fee	£21.00 £5.00			
Mid-Term Vehicle Licence	£28.00 production of cover note £29.00 admin fee If application not made 48 hours before expiry of licence - £38.00			-----
Private Hire Operator's Licence	£328.00 (1 year)	<u>Private</u> grant £919 Renewal £700 <u>Company</u> grant £961 Renewal £700	Grant £600) 1 Renewal £500) year Grant £1,650) 3 Renewal £1,350) years	Grant £1178.00 £673.00 Renewal £673.00 £337.00 (1-5 vehicles only)

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licence	£169.00 for 1 year + £34.00 plate deposit	Hackney Carriage	Brand new vehicle (annual incl. ISC x 1)	£310	Grant (HCV)	Renewal	
	4 month test - £109.00	Up to 3 years old	1 year	£307	£196.00	£93.00	
	6 month test - £109.00		or 1 st 6 months	£175	PHV (with metre)		
	Re-test - £36.00		2 nd 6 months	£175	£184.00	£99.00	
		Over 3 years old and under 6 years old	1 year	£426	Renewal Application (annual incl. full test + ISC x 1) < 5 yrs	£332	PHV (without metre)
			or 1 st 6 months	£242			£84.00
			2 nd 6 months	£242	Renewal Application (annual incl. full test x 1 + ISC x 2) > 5 yrs	£374	
		Over 6 years old	1 year	£542	Renewal Application (4 months) > 5 yrs	£149	
			or 1 st 4 months	£213	2 nd 4 months	£149	
			2 nd 4 months	£213	3 rd 4 months	£149	
			3 rd 4 months	£213	New Application (6 months incl. full test) < 5 yrs	£205	
		Annual Test and/or MOT		£52	2 nd 6 months (incl. ISC)	£205	
		Private Hire			Plate extension Application	£19	
		Up to 3 years old	1 year	£303	Transfer a vehicle application (another owner)	£19	
			or 1 st 6 months	£170	Replacement vehicle application (to same expiry date) (includes full test and set of plates - classed as new appl.)	£95	
		2 nd 6 months	£170	Administration fee for missed garage appointment (without 24 hours' notice)	£20		

			Full test retest fee (free or) £50 ISC retest/partial test fee (free or) £25 Plate deposit £30 Replacement of large plate (incl. pins) £10 Replacement of small plate £6.50 Replacement bracket £13 Replacement of roof sign plate £9.50 Replacement roof sign (complete) £89 incl. p&p Replacement roof sign (hood only) £49 incl. p&p Replacement bulbs and parts Paid direct Late insurance production £50	
Special Events Vehicles	£250.00			
Retests	£59.00			
Plate Deposit	£34.00			