

Taxis Committee – 11th February 2009

Report of the Interim 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 2008.
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 Fees received in respect of private hire and hackney carriage licences are not refunded if the application is withdrawn or refused.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. Column (1) in Table A below represents the fees currently charged.

Column (2) to (5) show the effect of fees of various increases between 2% and 5%; the budget for 2009-10 has been set based on 4% (ie. Column (4))

TABLE A

	Fees currently charged	Increase @ 2%	Increase @ 3%	Increase @ 4%	Increase @ 5%
Hackney Carriage Vehicle	193.43	197.30	199.23	201.17	203.10
Plate	36.05	36.77	37.13	37.49	37.85
Bracket	13.50	13.77	13.91	14.04	14.18
Vehicle Retest	41.61	42.44	42.86	43.27	43.69
4/6 months test	128.54	131.11	132.40	133.68	134.97
Private Hire Vehicle	193.43	197.30	199.23	201.17	203.10
Plate	36.05	36.77	37.13	37.49	37.85
Bracket	13.50	13.77	13.91	14.04	14.18
Vehicle Re-test	41.61	42.44	42.86	43.27	43.69
4/6 months test	128.54	131.11	132.40	133.68	134.97
Mid term vehicle licence production of insurance	29.87	30.47	30.77	31.06	31.36
Admin fee if application not made 48 hrs before enquiry	41.20	42.02	42.44	42.85	43.26
Cancelled Lister Road	80.13	81.73	82.53	83.34	84.14
Admin Fee	30.90	31.52	31.83	32.14	32.45
CRB	49.44	50.43	50.92	51.42	51.91
Private Hire Driver Grant	166.27	169.60	171.26	172.92	174.58
Badge Deposit	9.27	9.46	9.55	9.64	9.73
Renewal	100.35	102.36	103.36	104.36	105.37
Hackney Carriage Driver Grant	166.27	169.60	171.26	172.92	174.58
Badge Deposit	9.27	9.46	9.55	9.64	9.73
Renewal	100.35	102.36	103.36	104.36	105.37
Hackney Carriage/Private Hire driver applied together	209.53	213.72	215.82	217.91	220.01
Renewal	138.46	141.23	142.61	144.00	145.38
Badge Deposits	21.63	22.06	22.28	22.50	22.71
Private Hire Operator	351.23	358.25	361.77	365.28	368.79
Renewal	351.23	358.25	361.77	365.28	368.79
Repeat Knowledge/Driving Test	64.89	66.19	66.84	67.49	68.13
Disabled Training Course Fee	22.66	23.11	23.34	23.57	23.79
Disabled Training Course Admin	5.15	5.25	5.30	5.36	5.41
Disabled Course – Non-attendance fee	7.72	7.87	7.95	8.03	8.11
Special Events Vehicle	270.48	275.88	278.58	281.29	283.99
Retest	64.17	65.44	66.08	66.73	67.37
Plate	36.05	36.77	37.13	37.49	37.85

7. 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.
8. 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

10. The financial implications in respect of the fees for private hire and hackney carriage licensing (set out in Table A) are outlined below. For information, the budget strategy 2009/10 assumes an increase of 4%.

11. Option 1:

Present fee level increased by 2%

	£'000s	£'000s
Cost of Licence Administration		610
Less:		
Income:		
Hackney Carriage Licences	351	
Street Trading	3	
Betting and Gaming	53	
Liquor	221	
Net (surplus) of Licensing Administration		628 (18)

12. Option 2:

Present fee level increased by 3%

	£'000s	£'000s
Cost of Licence Administration		610
Less:		
Income:		
Hackney Carriage Licences	355	
Street Trading	3	
Betting and Gaming	53	
Liquor	221	
Net (surplus) of Licensing Administration		632 (22)

13. Option 3:

Present fee level increased by 4%

	£'000s	£'000s
Cost of Licence Administration		610
Less:	Income:	
	Hackney Carriage Licences	358
	Street Trading	3
	Betting and Gaming	53
	Liquor	221
Net (surplus) of Licensing Administration		635 (25)

14. Option 4:

Present fee level increased by 5%

	£'000s	£'000s
Cost of Licence Administration		610
Less:	Income:	
	Hackney Carriage Licences	362
	Street Trading	3
	Betting and Gaming	53
	Liquor	221
Net (surplus) of Licensing Administration		639 (29)

15. The cost of licence administration is included in the Law and Property Services budget.

Law

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

Equality Impact

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

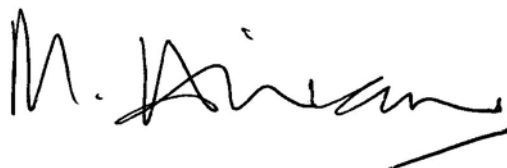
18. There has been no consultation or involvement of children and young people in developing these proposals.

Recommendation

19. That the Committee consider the revision of fees.



.....
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF LAW AND PROPERTY



.....
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Contact Officer: Mrs. J. Elliott 5377
Telephone: 01384 815377
Email: janetelliott@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

LICENCE/PERMIT	DUDLEY	WOLVERHAMPTON	SANDWELL	BIRMINGHAM
Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence	£166.27	New/3 rd application		
Grant		£118.00	£141.00	£172.00
Renewal	£100.35	£70.00	£100.00 every 3 rd year - £136.00	£86.00 (one year) £172.00 (two years) £258.00 (three years)
When applied for together				
Grant	£209.53		£190.00	
Renewal	£138.46		£149.00 every 3 rd year - £185.00	
Disabled training	£22.66	£65.00 Retest - £20.00		£50.00
Disabled training admin fee	£5.15			
Private Hire Operator's Licence	£351.23	£975 Renewal £743 Up to 6 vehicles £1020 Renewal £743	£600.00 (one year) £1650.00 (3 years) Renewal £500.00 (one year) £1,350.00 (three years)	£1,202.00 up to 5 vehicles £686.00 Renewal £868 up to 5 vehicles - £344.00

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licence	£193.43		£359.50 (less than 5 years old) Renewal £332.00 (less than 5 years old) New/Renewal £374 (more than 5 years old)	HCV - £200.00 PHV - £172.00 HCV Renewal - £95.00 PHV Renewal - £86.00
Retest (PHV and HCV)	£41.61		£50.00	£50.00
4/6 months test (PHV and HCV)	£128.54		£149.00	
Plate (PHV and HCV)	£36.05		£30.00	
Cancelled Lister Road	£80.13	£62 HCV £57 PHV	£20.00	
Special Events Vehicles	£270.48			
Retests	£ 64.17			
Plate	£ 36.05			