

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES to the GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 12TH JANUARY 2011

Taxi Licensing Fee increase

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Taxi licence fees need to be raised in order to cover the increased costs of administering the licensing regime including inspection and enforcement costs. This report seeks to ask Members to consider and determine a proposed level of taxi licence fees for 2010/2011.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 Consider approving a reasonable increase in the licence fee levels after consultation with the trade on the proposed increase.

Note: In preparing this report, due regard has been had to equality of opportunity, human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental and risk management considerations as appropriate. Relevant officers have been consulted in relation to any legal, financial or human resources implications and comments received are reflected in the report.

3. Information, Issues and Options

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 There is a need for the Licensing team to raise its revenue to cover the increase in costs and responsibilities and controls placed upon it by the Government and the Council. An increase to the current licence and associated fees has not been implemented in the last 3 years.

- 3.1.2 Taxi licence fee setting is a function of the General Purposes committee and S70(1) of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 deals with the setting of licence fees for vehicles and operators. It permits the Council to set licence fees to cover the whole or part of:-

1. the cost of carrying out by the District Council inspections of Hackney carriages and Private Hire vehicles to determine whether any such licence should be granted or renewed.
2. the reasonable cost for providing hackney carriage stands; and
3. any reasonable administrative or other costs in connection with the foregoing and with the control and supervision of Hackney carriages and Private Hire vehicles

- 3.1.3 S70(2) of the 1976 Act states that for each hackney carriage vehicle, private hire vehicle and private hire operators licence the fees chargeable shall not exceed £25.00. However, where the Council consider it appropriate to charge more than that figure, a 28 day public notice of the proposed fee must be advertised within which any person may object to the variations. If no objections are made or if all objections made are withdrawn the fees will come into effect at the end of the 28 day period.

Where objections are not withdrawn, the Council should consider the objections before determining the fee level and setting a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date, on which the new fees shall come into force.

- 3.1.3 In relation to other taxi licence fees and charges, these should recover reasonable expenses incurred to issue licences and administer and control the service. There are no consultation requirements but it is considered good practice to consult with the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade. The licensing team propose to consult with all our current licence holders on all the proposed fees if members agree to increase them.
- 3.1.4 The current fees are attached at Appendix A and detail the current fees for each process, the actual cost to the Council of each process and the fee difference. These have been calculated using the actual administration and enforcement process costing times. These are attached at Appendix B.
- 3.1.5 All existing licence holders have been consulted. This process commenced on 1st November 2010 and closed on 28th November 2010. The licensing team received five responses which are attached at Appendix C for members consideration. The responses are mainly concerned with the increased costs associated with the replacement licences, stickers and badges

3.2 Options

Members may:

- After considering the responses to the consultation approve and determine a proposed level for licence fees; or
- Refuse the proposed increase in fees

3.3 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 3.3.1 To set fees at a level that recovers the cost of providing the taxi licensing service.

4. **Risk and Financial Implications**

4.1 **Risk**

- 4.1.1 I have completed the Risk Management questionnaire and can confirm that risk has been given careful consideration, and that there are no significant risks identified associated with the information in this report.

4.2 **Financial**

- 4.2.1 The proposed fee increase seeks to set reasonable fees in accordance with the legislation.

5. **Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The legal implications are discussed in the body of the report.

6. **Other Implications**

- a) Equalities: None

- b) Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998: None
- c) Section 40, Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006: None
- d) Human Resources: None
- e) Other: [e.g. Children's Act 2004] None

7. Alignment to Council Priorities

7.1 Building Safer and Stronger Communities & Prosperous Communities

8. Ward/Community Affected

8.1 None

Background Papers

None

Lead Contact Officer:

Name: Stephanie Butcher- Principal Licensing Officer

Telephone: 01362 656876

Email: licensingteam@breckland.gov.uk

Key Decision Status (Executive Decisions only): Not applicable

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A – Fee overview actuals

Appendix B – All taxi process costings

Appendix C – Consultation responses

APPENDIX A

Description	Volume	Current Fee	Actual Cost	Fee Difference	Annual Amount As Is	Annual Amount To Be
Hackney Carriage Grant	75	£100.00	£116.58	£16.58	£7,500.00	£8,743.50
Hackney Carriage Renewal	138	£100.00	£109.55	£9.55	£13,800.00	£15,117.90
Private Hire Vehicle Grant	20	£100.00	£116.58	£16.58	£2,000.00	£2,331.60
Private Hire Vehicle Renewal	60	£100.00	£109.55	£9.55	£6,000.00	£6,573.00
Taxi Driver Grant	15	£100.00	£135.02	£35.02	£1,500.00	£2,025.30
Taxi Driver Renewal	80	£110.00	£102.98	-£7.02	£8,800.00	£8,238.40
Trailer Grant	1	£100.00	£108.17	£8.17	£100.00	£108.17
Trailer Renewal	3	£100.00	£108.21	£8.21	£300.00	£324.63
Private Hire Operator Grant	5	£100.00	£111.37	£11.37	£500.00	£556.85
Private Hire Operator Renewal	30	£100.00	£108.21	£8.21	£3,000.00	£3,246.30
Replacement Stickers (all types)	5	£10.00	£50.06	£40.06	£50.00	£250.30
Replacement Driver Badge	5	£18.00	£51.34	£33.34	£90.00	£256.70
Replacement/Updated Taxi Licence	5	£18.00	£52.65	£34.65	£90.00	£263.25
Replacement Vehicle Plate	5	£18.00	£72.32	£54.32	£90.00	£361.60
Replacement Internal Stickers	5	£12.00	£52.65	£40.65	£60.00	£263.25
Transfer Vehicle to New Owners	5	£20.00	£107.39	£87.39	£100.00	£536.95
Transfer Licence to New Vehicle	15	£55.00	£116.06	£61.06	£825.00	£1,740.90
Total		£1,161.00	£1,628.69	£467.69	£44,805.00	£50,938.60
					Deficit/increase	£6,133.60

APPENDIX B

Process	Process Time	Process Cost + Overheads	Enforcement & Monitoring Costs (per process)	Customer enquiries and support	Material Costs	Public Notice and Correspondance	Web Content Management	Surrender Vehicle Licence cost	Training Costs	TOTAL COST	Inflation of 3%
Hackney Carriage Vehicle Grant	1:16:34	£41.35	£31.65	£4.82	£21.82	£4.17	£0.23	£1.98	£7.17	£113.18	£116.58
Hackney Carriage Vehicle Renewal	1:04:00	£34.53	£31.65	£4.82	£21.82	£4.17	£0.23	£1.98	£7.17	£106.36	£109.55
Private Hire Vehicle Grant	1:16:34	£41.35	£31.65	£4.82	£21.82	£4.17	£0.23	£1.98	£7.17	£113.18	£116.58
Private Hire Vehicle Renewal	1:04:00	£34.53	£31.65	£4.82	£21.82	£4.17	£0.23	£1.98	£7.17	£106.36	£109.55
Taxi Driver Grant	1:49:48	£59.25	£31.65	£4.82	£21.82	£4.17	£0.23	£1.98	£7.17	£131.09	£135.02
Taxi Driver Renewal	0:54:15	£28.14	£31.65	£4.82	£21.82	£4.17	£0.23	£1.98	£7.17	£99.98	£102.98
Trailers Grant	1:01:34	£33.19	£31.65	£4.82	£21.82	£4.17	£0.23	£1.98	£7.17	£105.02	£108.17
Trailers Renewal	1:01:25	£33.23	£31.65	£4.82	£21.82	£4.17	£0.23	£1.98	£7.17	£105.06	£108.21
Private Hire Operator Grant	1:05:58	£36.30	£31.65	£4.82	£21.82	£4.17	£0.23	£1.98	£7.17	£108.13	£111.37
Private Hire Operator Renewal	1:01:25	£33.23	£31.65	£4.82	£21.82	£4.17	£0.23	£1.98	£7.17	£105.06	£108.22
Replacement Stags/Stickers	0:38:30	£21.73	£0.00	£4.82	£21.82	£0.00	£0.23	£0.00	£0.00	£48.61	£50.06
Replacement Driver's Badge	0:43:30	£22.98	£0.00	£4.82	£21.82	£0.00	£0.23	£0.00	£0.00	£49.85	£51.34
Replacement Taxi Licence	0:43:30	£24.24	£0.00	£4.82	£21.82	£0.00	£0.23	£0.00	£0.00	£51.12	£52.65
Replacement Vehicle Plate	1:16:30	£43.35	£0.00	£4.82	£21.82	£0.00	£0.23	£0.00	£0.00	£70.22	£72.32
Replacement Internal Stickers	0:43:30	£24.24	£0.00	£4.82	£21.82	£0.00	£0.23	£0.00	£0.00	£51.12	£52.65
Transfer Vehicle to New Owner	1:00:04	£32.43	£31.65	£4.82	£21.82	£4.17	£0.23	£1.98	£7.17	£104.26	£107.39
Transfer Licence to New Vehicle	1:15:34	£40.85	£31.65	£4.82	£21.82	£4.17	£0.23	£1.98	£7.17	£112.68	£116.06
Surrender Vehicle Licence	0:10:00	£4.89	£31.65	£4.82	£21.82	£4.17	£0.23	£0.00	£7.17	£74.74	£76.99