

**REPORT OF THE DIVISIONAL OFFICER
LICENSING, FOOD & SAFETY
TO THE GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE
16th June 2017**

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE
VEHICLE FEES**

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Fees relating to hackney carriage and private hire vehicles must be approved in accordance with Section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and may be set to recover reasonable costs of providing the service.
- 1.2 The process for the setting of hackney carriage and private hire vehicle fees is in two stages, the proposed fees must be approved for consultation by the General Licensing Committee prior to being advertised in a local newspaper. A period of 28 days must be allowed for any person affected/interested to make comment or objection in writing. After the 28 days have passed, if no objections have been received the new fees will become effective on the date specified in the Notice.
- 1.3 If objections are received these will be reported to the General Licensing Committee for consideration and to agree any amendments to the proposed fees considered necessary. A new implementation date for the proposed fees must also be specified by the General Licensing Committee and this date must be within two months of the first date specified.
- 1.4 Vehicle fees were previously varied in 2009 and may be granted for a maximum of one year.

2.0 Considerations

- 2.1 The Licensing Section has undertaken a comprehensive review of the existing licensing processes, procedures and fees. Following the review which has resulted in some changes to the processes and procedures in place for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles, a new fee structure has been developed which reflects the changes made and allows the licensing authority to, as accurately as possible, recover the fees to cover the cost of administering the service.
- 2.2 A table detailing the current and proposed fees is provided in paragraph 3 of the report.

3.0 Proposed Fees

- 3.1 The proposed fees have been calculated using the “All Wales Expert Panel Toolkit” which has been endorsed for use by the Directors of Public Protection Wales and the Local Government Association.
- 3.2 The toolkit requires the use of data collected over a period of time which details the time spent by officers administering the particular service. Data relating to the service expenditure is also used and when all relevant costs are entered into the toolkit a licence fee is generated. The section of the toolkit used and the data collected is specific to each licence type.
- 3.3 It is proposed that the fees for hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licences identified in the table below are agreed to allow cost recovery in accordance with the legislation.

	Current	Proposed
Hackney Carriage Vehicle (Grant)	£320.00	£375.00
Hackney Carriage vehicle (Renewal)	£320.00	£305.00
Hackney Carriage vehicle (Substitution)	£112.00	£165.00
Private Hire Vehicle (including Restricted Private Hire Vehicle) (Grant)	£310.00	£290.00
Private Hire Vehicle (including Restricted Private Hire Vehicle) (Renewal)	£310.00	£235.00

Private Hire Vehicle (including Restricted Private Hire Vehicle) (Substitution)	£112.00 (Full) £78.50 (Restricted)	£142.00
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4.0 **Financial Implications**

4.1 If the proposed fees are not agreed it is likely that the fees recovered will not reflect the cost of administering the service.

5.0 **Legal Implications**

5.1 The statutory procedure must be followed when setting fees in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

5.2 The fees to be charged cannot exceed the reasonable cost for the provision of the services set out in Section 70(1) of the 1976 Act by the Licensing Authority.

6.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 It is recommended that :

Members approve the proposed fees to be advertised.

The Licensing Committee's instructions are requested.

Background Papers: None
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