

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

DECISION

Agenda Item No. 6

meeting date: THURSDAY, 16 MARCH 2010  
title: ANNUAL FEES AND CHARGES – HACKNEY AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCES  
submitted by: LEGAL SERVICES MANAGER  
principal author: DIANE RICE

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To determine the annual fees for hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licences, and to alter the date when a private hire operators licence requires renewal.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions -            }
  - Community Objectives -       }
  - Corporate Priorities -         }
  - Other Considerations -         }
- The Council aims to be a well-managed Council providing efficient services based on identified customer needs. The fees charged for licences fund part of that service, and should reflect the costs incurred whilst being set at a reasonable level for licence holders.

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council has power to charge for licences, subject to statutory provisions which give rise to the power to charge and also specify the way the charge for certain licences has to be calculated.

2.2 The relevant provisions are contained in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

2.3 Section 53(2) is the relevant provision for:

- driver's licences for hackney carriages;
- drivers licences for private hire vehicles.

2.4 Section 70 is the relevant provision for:

- hackney carriage vehicle licences;
- private hire vehicle licences;
- private hire operator's licences.

2.5 Changes to the licence fees in respect of hackney carriage vehicles, private hire vehicles and private hire operator licences must be advertised in one newspaper, circulated in the local area 28 days before the change in charges takes effect.

2.6 The legislation provides that the fees should be set at a level which provides "such a fee as they consider reasonable with a view to recovering the costs of issue and administration".

2.7 The current fees for each type of licence are set out below:

<b><u>TAXI LICENSING CHARGES</u></b>	
PRIVATE HIRE & HACKNEY CARRIAGE	2009 from 1 April
	£
Driver's Renewal/Annual Licence	50.00
Temporary/Six month Licence	25.00
Replacement Driver's Badge	9.50
Vehicle Licences:	
ANNUAL – Up to 3 years old	141.00
6 MONTHS – Over 3 years but not exceeding 7 years	74.00
4 MONTHS – Over 7 years	53.50
Discount on previous Licence (1/12 <sup>th</sup> annual)	11.50 one full month
Transfer on Licence ownership	20.50
New or replacement:	
Plates	11.50
Brackets	22.25
Private Hire Operators Licence (From 1 December to 30 November) per annum for 5 vehicles or fewer, thereafter £10 per vehicle	130.00
Log books (100 sheets) each	1.25

### 3 ISSUES

3.1 In recent years licence fees have generally been uplifted annually in line with inflation. The Council is recommending uplifting the fees by reference to inflation (based on 1.5%) the annual fees (rounded up or down as most appropriate) for 2010 from 1 April would be as follows:

<b><u>TAXI LICENSING CHARGES</u></b>	
PRIVATE HIRE & HACKNEY CARRIAGE	2010 from 1 April
	£
Driver's Renewal/Annual Licence	51.00
Temporary/Six month Licence	25.50
Replacement Driver's Badge	10.00
Vehicle Licences:	
ANNUAL – Up to 3 years old	143.00
6 MONTHS – Over 3 years but not exceeding 7 years	75.00
4 MONTHS – Over 7 years	54.00
Discount on previous Licence (1/12 <sup>th</sup> annual)	12.00

	one full month
Transfer on Licence ownership	21.00
New or replacement: Plates Brackets	At cost
Private Hire Operators Licence (From 1 December to 30 November) per annum for 5 vehicles or fewer, thereafter £10.50 per vehicle	132.00
Log books (100 sheets) each	1.30

- 3.2 The Committee is asked to consider altering the current charging regime in two ways, as follows:

Operators Licence – The licence is granted annually, from 1 December. The date creates problems for two reasons, firstly it coincides with the date the Register of Electors must be publicised – the same staff deal with both electoral registration and licensing. Secondly, the date, as it is shortly before the Christmas season, which is a busy time for operators, creates little opportunity to remedy any problems with the application. The Electoral and Licensing Officer therefore suggests deferring renewal in 2010 to 1 February 2011, and renewal to be on the first February each year thereafter. There would be a slight impact on cash flow, based on deferred receipts of the operators licence fees but the Director of Resources has confirmed that this would be acceptable.

Cost of Plates and Brackets – These have risen beyond the cost set by Committee during the past year. Authorisation is therefore requested to charge the cost charged to the Council by its suppliers rather than a set figure, plus a 10% charge for making up the plate.

#### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – Committee must set fees at a level which reflects the Council's costs, however any surplus could be used to fund improvements to services and/or enforcement.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – N/A
- Political – N/A
- Reputation – N/A

#### 5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 Agree to increase the current fees, as shown at Table 2.
- 5.2 Agree to move the renewal date for operators licences to 1 February each year with effect from the next financial year (2010/11).

#### LEGAL SERVICES MANAGER

For further information please ask for Diane Rice, extension 4418.