

**RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE**

DECISION

Agenda Item No. 6

meeting date: TUESDAY, 21 JANUARY 2014  
title: ANNUAL FEES AND CHARGES – HACKNEY AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCES  
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
principal author: MAIR HILL

**1 PURPOSE**

1.1 To determine the annual fees for hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licences.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- 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 both give rise to the power to charge and 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:

- drivers 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". This is the basis upon which the fees were reviewed when the fee structure was last altered. Following recent case law, the Local Government Association has consulted upon draft guidance on locally set fees but this is yet to be finalised. There is no evidence to suggest the structure needs to be reviewed at this point provided increased costs are reflected in an inflation based uplift.

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

<b><u>TAXI LICENSING CHARGES</u></b>	
<b>PRIVATE HIRE &amp; HACKNEY CARRIAGE</b>	<b>2013 from 1 April</b>
	<b>£</b>
Driver's Renewal/Annual Licence	55.40
Temporary/Six month Licence	27.70
Replacement Driver's Badge	11.30
Vehicle Licences:	
ANNUAL – Up to 3 years old	154.80
6 MONTHS – Over 3 years but not exceeding 7 years	82.00
4 MONTHS – Over 7 years	58.40
Discount on previous Licence (1/12 <sup>th</sup> annual)	12.90
Transfer on Licence ownership	22.60
New or replacement:	
Plates	At cost plus 10% admin
Brackets	At cost plus 10% admin
Private Hire Operators Licence (From 1 December to 30 November) per annum for 5 vehicles or fewer, thereafter £11.75 per vehicle	143.50
Log books (100 sheets) each	1.50
Knowledge test – first one free - paper	7.20
- driven	14.40

### 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 2.75%) the annual fees (rounded up or down as most appropriate) for 2013 from 1 April would be as follows:

<b><u>TAXI LICENSING CHARGES</u></b>	
<b>PRIVATE HIRE &amp; HACKNEY CARRIAGE</b>	<b>2014 from 1 April</b>
	<b>£</b>
Driver's Renewal/Annual Licence	56.90
Temporary/Six month Licence	28.45 (unless provision for temporary licence is removed by committee)
Replacement Driver's Badge	11.60
Vehicle Licences:	

ANNUAL – Up to 3 years old	159.05
6 MONTHS – Over 3 years but not exceeding 7 years	84.25
4 MONTHS – Over 7 years	60.00
Discount on previous Licence (1/12 <sup>th</sup> annual)	13.25
Transfer on Licence ownership	23.20
New or replacement: Plates Brackets	At cost plus 10% admin
Private Hire Operators Licence (From 1 December to 30 November) per annum for 5 vehicles or fewer, thereafter £11.75 per vehicle	147.45
Log books (100 sheets) each	1.55
Knowledge test – first one free – paper	7.40
- driven (if provision for temporary licence not removed by committee)	14.80
- in person (if provision for temporary licence removed by committee)	14.80

#### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

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

- Resources – Committee must set fees at a level, which must not exceed the costs of administering the licensing process.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – N/A
- Political – N/A
- Reputation – N/A
- Equality and Diversity – N/A

#### 5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

##### 5.1 Agree to set the current fees with effect from 1 April 2014, as shown at Table 2.

*Mair Hill*

MAIR HILL  
SOLICITOR

*Marshall Scott*

MARSHAL SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Mair Hill, extension 3216.

REF: MJH/Licensing Committee/21 January 2014