



# Northumberland County Council

**Licensing & Regulatory Committee**

**DATE: 20th June 2018**

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## **Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers Licence Fees**

**Report of the Interim Director of Place: Mr Paul Johnston**

**Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle**

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### **Purpose of report**

To seek approval of the Committee for officers to consult on the proposed new licence fees in respect of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers Fees and to confirm arrangement for the consideration of representations.

### **Recommendations**

Members approve the fees.

Agree consideration of any responses to the consultation be delegated to a meeting of the Chair and Vice Chair of the committee.

### **Link to Corporate Plan**

This report is relevant to the enjoying and living priorities included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2018-2021

### **Key issues**

The Council may recover the cost of the granting of a hackney carriage or private hire drivers licence with a fee that they consider reasonable with a view to recovering the cost of issue and administration.

In the Budgetary Review Process for 2018-19 it was approved that there should be an increase in income from taxi fees and street naming/numbering of £10,000.

Licence fees for hackney carriage and private hire driver licences were last amended in October 2017 with the introduction of 3 year drivers licences.

Officers have conducted an assessment of the actual cost of administering the driver licence application process and the table below shows this cost together with the current fees and a proposed fee.

	Current Fee £	Estimated Cost of issue and administration £	Proposed Fee £
1 year licence	60	78	66
2 year licence	100	112	110
3 year licence	130	146	143
Additional Licence	28	30	30

For Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles and Private Hire Operators the legislation requires that if the Council resolve to set fees, they shall publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district a notice setting out the fees proposed, and specifying the period, within which and the manner in which objections to the variation can be made. Although it is not legally required for drivers licences it is considered best practice to adopt the same practices in respect of drivers licences.

Normally where no representations are received to the consultation the new fees would come into force the day after the close of representations. Where representations are received the authority must make arrangements to consider the comments and make a final determination and agree a date of implementation.

### **Background**

Following Local Government reorganisation license fees were standardised to charge the same across the county. Following the initial setting of the fees in 2009, they were reviewed in August 2015 and then again September 2015 following the introduction of 3 year licences.

The Council has previously not increased charges for a number of reasons. It recognised that businesses were under pressure and didn't wish to add to that burden.

## **Implications**

<b>Policy</b>	None
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	Expected additional income of £5730
<b>Legal</b>	
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	None
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Any amendment of the Fees should be subject to consultation.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None
<b>Wards</b>	All

### **Background papers:**

### **Report sign off.**

	initials
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	
Relevant Executive Director	
Chief Executive	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

## **Author and Contact Details**

Tasmin Hardy  
Licensing Manager  
01670 623742  
Tasmin.hardy@northumberland.gov.uk