



# Northumberland

## County Council

COMMITTEE: LICENSING AND REGULATORY

DATE: 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

### TITLE OF REPORT

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Fees

**Report of Philip Soderquest, Director of Housing & Public Protection**

**Cabinet Member: Cllr Colin Horncastle, Portfolio Holder, Community Service**

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### **Purpose of Report**

To provide information to committee in relation to hackney carriage and private hire licensing fees.

### **Recommendations**

Members note the content of the report.

Members to debate whether any changes to the current fees are required.

### **Link to Corporate Plan**

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

### **Key issues**

The Council may recover the cost of the granting of hackney carriage or private hire licences with a fee that they consider reasonable with a view to recovering the cost of issue and administration of the licences. In relation to vehicle licences the costs of enforcement may be included within the licence fees.

Licence fees for hackney carriage and private hire driver licences were last amended in 2018.

Licence fees for hackney carriage vehicles, private hire vehicles and private hire operators were last amended in 2015.

The table below shows the current fees.

Licence Type	Current Fee
Private or Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence for vehicles	226
Private or Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence for vehicles using "greener" fuels	204
Private Hire Operators Licence (1 year)	106
Private Hire Operators Licence (5 year)	502
Driver Licence (1 year)	78
Driver Licence (2 year)	112
Driver Licence (3 year)	146
Additional driver licence	30
Change of vehicle licence holder	33

For Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles and Private Hire Operators the Local Government (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 1976, Section 70, requires that if the Council resolve to set/amend 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. The period of notice shall be at least 28 days.

Although it is not legally required for drivers licences, it is considered best practice to adopt the same practices in respect of drivers licence fees.

Where no representations are received to the consultation the new fees would normally 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 which is within 2 months of the end of the consultation period.

The Council may remit the whole or part of any fee chargeable in any case in which they think it appropriate to do so.

It is envisaged that should the committee wish to amend the fees and formal public notices are published representations would be considered by the next Licensing and Regulatory Committee in December.

The committee is also due to consider any amendments to the hackney carriage tariff.

## Implications

<b>Policy</b>	None
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	Any changes to fees will impact upon the income. However, it is expected that the licensing system will be cost recovery.
<b>Legal</b>	
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	None
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	None
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	None
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	For some licence types there is a requirement for consultation
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	None
<b>Wards</b>	All

## Background papers:

**Report sign off.**

***Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:***

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	
Relevant Executive Director	
Chief Executive	
Portfolio Holder(s)	Colin Horncastle

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