

Licensing and General Purposes Committee

Date and Time - **Monday 16 January 2023 – 6:30pm**

Venue - **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bexhill-on-Sea**

Councillors appointed to the Committee:

Councillor A.S. Mier (Chair), S.J. Coleman (Vice-Chair), G.S. Browne, G.C. Curtis, S.J. Errington, K.M. Field, N. Gordon, L. Hacking, K.M. Harmer (ex-officio), C.A. Madeley, R.B. Thomas and H.L. Timpe, plus 1 vacancy.

Substitute Members: C.A. Bayliss, T.J.C. Byrne, P.J. Gray and Mrs E.M. Kirby-Green.

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To authorise the Chair to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee held on 31 August 2022 as a correct record of the proceedings.

2. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTES

The Chair to ask if any Member present is substituting for another Member and, if so, to declare his/her name as substitute Member and the name of the absent Member.

3. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM

To consider such other items as the Chair decides are urgent and due notice of which has been given to the Head of Paid Service by 12 Noon on the day of the meeting.

4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

To receive any disclosure by Members of personal and disclosable pecuniary interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Member regards the personal interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct. Members are reminded of the need to repeat their declaration immediately prior to the commencement of the item in question.

5. SURVEILLANCE POLICY AND ANNUAL REPORT - TO FOLLOW

This agenda can be made available in large print, Braille, audiotape/CD or in another language upon request. For all enquiries – please contact louise.hollingsworth@rother.gov.uk (Tel: 01424 787815)

Rother District Council putting residents at the heart of everything we do.

6. **FEES AND CHARGES** (Pages 3 - 14)
7. **HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES** (Pages 15 - 22)
8. **HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCE FEES** (Pages 23 - 28)

Malcolm Johnston
Chief Executive

Agenda Despatch Date: 6 January 2023

This agenda can be made available in large print, Braille, audiotape/CD or in another language upon request. For all enquiries – please contact louise.hollingsworth@rother.gov.uk (Tel: 01424 787815)

**Rother District Council's aspiring to deliver
an Efficient, Flexible and Effective Council; Sustainable Economic Prosperity;
Stronger, Safer Communities; and a Quality Physical Environment.**

Rother District Council

Report to:	Licensing and General Purposes Committee
Date:	16 January 2023
Title:	Fees and charges
Report of:	Head of Service - Environmental Services, Licensing and Community Safety
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of Report:	To consider an increase in some fees next year
Officer	
Recommendation(s):	It be RESOLVED: That the licensing fees and charges set out in Appendix A be approved and apply from 1 April 2023.

Background

1. This report seeks Committee approval for increases in some licensing fees proposed to be charged from April 2023.
2. Fees are set to recover the full administrative costs of issuing the licences and costs associated with ensuring compliance with the conditions attached to licences, but not the costs associated with the enforcement of unlicensed premises and activities. We cannot aim to recover more than the costs incurred.
3. Many fees are set by statute and are generally very low. The fees set by the Licensing Act 2003 have not been increased, despite requests by the Local Government Association. Maximum fees under the Gambling Act 2005 are also set by statute. This authority charges the maximum amounts.
4. Appendix A sets out the discretionary fees proposed to be charged from April 2023, changes highlighted in red. Where fees are proposed to increase, they have increased by ten percent. The hiring of horses fee includes the veterinary inspection costs, which increase each year.
5. The Council does not currently licence any sex establishments or zoos.
6. As environmental health is a shared service with Wealden District Council, we aim to charge the same fees for licences issued for Rother and Wealden premises, although each authority sets its own fees.

Conclusion

7. Members are recommended to approve revised fees for licences from April 2023.

Legal Implications

8. There is the possibility of judicial review if fees are set too high or inconsistently.

Financial implications

9. Fees should be set to reflect the costs incurred by the Council in carrying out the function. If fees are not increased, then the service is effectively being subsidised by the Council taxpayer. The Council's financial position requires fees to be increased, each year, if possible.

Other Implications	Applies?	Other Implications	Applies?
Human Rights	No	Equalities and Diversity	No
Crime and Disorder	No	External Consultation	No
Environmental	No	Access to Information	No
Risk Management	No	Exempt from publication	No
Chief Executive	Malcolm Johnston		
Report Contact Officer:	Richard Parker-Harding, Head of Service		
e-mail address:	Richard.parker-harding@rother.gov.uk		
Appendices:	Appendix A – Discretionary Fees		
Relevant Previous Minutes:	LG21/11		
Background Papers:	None		
Reference Documents:	None		

Discretionary Fees

**Animal Welfare Act 2006
Animal Welfare Licensing Fees (3 years)**

Item	Unit	2022/23	2023/24
Home Boarding / Dog Day Care	Each	£230.00 (Combined fee) ¹	£230.00 (Combined fee) ¹
		-or- £220.00 for Processing & £25.00 for Issue of Licence plus actual vet costs if required	-or- £220.00 for Processing & £25.00 for Issue of Licence plus actual vet costs if required
Animal Boarding / Selling Pets	For each activity; cat boarding, dog boarding or selling animals	£250.00 (Combined fee) ¹	£250.00 (Combined fee) ¹
		-or- £245.00 for Processing & £25.00 for Issue of Licence plus actual vet costs if required	-or- £245.00 for Processing & £25.00 for Issue of Licence plus actual vet costs if required
Breeding of Dogs	Each	£250.00 (Combined fee) ¹	£250.00 (Combined fee) ¹
		-or- £245.00 for Processing & £25.00 for Issue of Licence plus actual vet costs if required	-or- £245.00 for Processing & £25.00 for Issue of Licence plus actual vet costs if required

Exhibition of Animals	Each	£250.00 (Combined fee) ¹ -or- £245.00 for Processing & £25.00 for Issue of Licence plus actual vet costs if required	£250.00 (Combined fee) ¹ -or- £245.00 for Processing & £25.00 for Issue of Licence plus actual vet costs if required
Regrading Request (except Riding Establishments)	Each		£100.00
Hiring of Horses: 1 – 10 horses	Each	£495.00 (Combined fee) ¹ -or- £485.00 for Processing & £30.00 for Issue of Licence. £395.00 for Re-grading. Includes initial vet costs.	£549.00 (Combined fee) ¹ -or- £538.00 for Processing & £30.00 for Issue of Licence. £438.00 for Re-grading. Includes initial vet costs.
Hiring of Horses: 11 – 25 horses	Each	£595.00 (Combined fee) ¹ -or- £485.00 for Processing & £30.00 for Issue of Licence. £495.00 for Re-grading. Includes initial vet costs.	£660.00 (Combined fee) ¹ -or- £649.00 for Processing & £30.00 for Issue of Licence. £549.00 for Re-grading. Includes initial vet costs.

		£700.00	£777.00
		(Combined	(Combined
		fee) ¹	fee) ¹
		-or-	-or-
Hiring of Horses:	Each	£690.00 for	£766.00 for
26 – 40 horses		Processing	Processing
		& £30.00	& £30.00
		for Issue of	for Issue of
		Licence.	Licence.
		£590.00 for	£666.00 for
		Re-grading.	Re-grading.
		Includes	Includes
		initial vet	initial vet
		costs.	costs.

Local authorities are required to charge separate fees for processing applications and issuing the licence and carrying out enforcement. However, if the two fees are paid at the same time, then the administration costs are lower. If an application is withdrawn the issue fee is refunded.

Animal Welfare Licensing Fees

Continued

Item	Unit	2022/23	2023/24
Dangerous Wild Animals (grant or renewal): small individual animal or small collection (Two year licence)	Each	£240.00 plus actual vet costs	£272.00 plus actual vet costs
Dangerous Wild Animals (grant or renewal): large individual or groups (Two year licence)	Each	£295.00 plus actual vet costs	£327.00 plus actual vet costs
Dangerous Wild Animals: Farm Type Activity – Grant: Two year licence (E.g. Ostrich, Wild Boar etc.)	Each	£790.00 plus actual vet costs	£877.00 plus actual vet costs
Dangerous Wild Animals: Farm Type Activity – Renewal: Two year licence (E.g. Ostrich, Wild Boar etc.)	Each	£305.00 plus actual vet costs	£339.00 plus actual vet costs
Dangerous Wild Animals: Variation of Licence (Two year licence)	Each	£245.00 plus actual vet costs	£272.00 plus actual vet costs
Zoo Licence: Application	Each	£1,020.00 plus actual team & vet costs	£1,132.00 plus actual team & vet costs
Zoo Licence Renewal - 6 Years	Each	£970.00 plus actual team & vet costs	£1077.00 plus actual team & vet costs
Zoo Licence: Transfer	Each	£100.00 plus actual team & vet costs	£111.00 plus actual team & vet costs
Zoo (Dispensation)	Each	£215.00	£239.00
Variation of licence	Each	£105.00	£117.00

**Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Fees**

		2022/23	2023/24
Relief Vehicle	3 month licence	£130.00	£130.00
Relief Vehicle renewal	3 month licence	£70.00	£70.00
Inspections and visits carried out away from Council offices at the Licence Holder's request	Each	£60.00	£60.00
Change of licence on same vehicle	Each	£60.00	£60.00
Transfer on vehicle ownership	Each	£60.00	£60.00
Replacement external vehicle plates where lost or damaged	Each	£60.00	£60.00
Replacement internal vehicle plates where lost or damaged	Each	£30.00	£30.00
Replacement Driver's Badge where lost or damaged	Each	£30.00	£30.00
Replacement Licence	Each	£30.00	£30.00
Exemption certificate (if not part of an application)	Each	£100.00	£100.00
Guidance Booklet (printed)	Each	£10.00	£12.00
Withdrawn applications administration fee	Per application	£138.00	£153.00
Additional administration costs per hour or part thereof	Per application	N/A	£36
Additional administrative fee for application visits made at a distance greater than 5 miles outside of the Council's district boundary	Per new driver application - First hour	£65.00	£77.00
	Per new driver application - each additional hour or part thereof	£45.00	£53.00
	Per renewal or vehicle application - First hour	£65.00	£77.00
	Per renewal or vehicle application - Each additional hour or part thereof	£45.00	£53.00
Item	Unit	2022/23	2023/24
Door Signs	Each	£20.00	£23.00
DBS (if fee paid by Council)	Each	£60.00	£71.00
DBS (if not part of an application)	Each	£220.00	£258.00
Knowledge Tests -first	Each	Free	Free
Second test	Each	£50.00	£59.00
Third or more test	Each	£70.00	£82.00
English Proficiency Test	Each	£40.00	£47.00

**Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act
1982-Sex Establishment Licensing Fees**

Item	Unit	2022/23	2023/24
Initial Application	Per application	£6,300.00	£6,300.00
Annual Fee	Per licence	£5,250.00	£5,250.00

Skin and Body Piercing etc

Item	Unit	2022/23	2023/24
Registration of persons ¹	Per registration	£90.00	£105.00
Registration of premises or parts of the premises used in connection with the business ²	Per registration	£255.00	£294.00

¹If the applicant can provide evidence of registration with another local authority for the same type of piercing then a discount of 50% is available

²If the premises is already registered, but new applicant, option to reduce registration fee by up to 50%

Other Licences

Item	Unit	2022/23	2023/24
Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907			
Pleasure Boatman's Licence - annual	Each	£40.00	£47.00
Pleasure Boat Operator Licence	Annual	£250.00	£294.00
Pleasure Boat Operator Licence	3 year	£700.00	£821.00
Keddle Nets	3 years	£300.00	£330.00
Hypnotism Act 1952 licence	Each	£100.00	£118.00
Environmental Information Enquiries	Each	£90.00	£105.00
Photocopies of Public Register etc	Per hour or part thereof	£50.00	£59.00

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982

Street Trading in Bexhill

Street Trading during an organised event	Commercial event	Referred to Committee for decision	Fee for a consent per stall/pitch per day
No	N/A	Yes	Set by Committee
Yes	No, charitable or non-profit ¹	No, delegated to Officers	Free
Yes	Yes ²	No, delegated to Officers	£25

¹An event is classed as charitable/non-profit if the event organisers are a registered charity, are substantially supporting a registered charity or a charity that benefits people locally. The event may generate an income, however all profits are to be used for community projects or for charitable purposes. Event organisers must be able to supply event accounts and the registered Charity Number (if applicable)

²An event is classed as commercial if the event organisers are a profit making organisation, the event is planned to generate an income that is for benefit of the organiser or another commercial organisation.

A fee may be payable for a consent per stall/pitch per day in other consent streets that do not meet the specific criteria.

The fee for Street Trading for one year for Bexhill Farmers Market, Devonshire Square is £250.

Street Trading in Ticehurst

£125 per annum for each day of trading

MOBILE HOMES ACT 2013

Relevant Protected Sites	Band				
	A (2 – 5)	B (6 - 24)	C (25 - 99)	D (100+)	E (Single unit sites and family sites)
New Application for Site Licence	£175.00	£300.00	£330.00	£350.00	£175.00
Transfer of Site Licence	£60.00	£115.00	£115.00	£115.00	£60.00
Amendment of Site Licence	£60.00	£115.00	£115.00	£115.00	£60.00
Annual Fee	No Fee Charged	£185.00 Plus £0.5 per unit for registration of fit and proper person	£215.00 Plus £0.5 per unit for registration of fit and proper person	£285.00	No Fee Charged
Depositing of park rules with Local Authority	£40.00	£75.00	£75.00	£75.00	£40.00

Initial application to be registered as fit and proper person: £90 (£80 in 2022/23)

Appointed Manager Fee: £100

If an application to be included on the register is not approved the fee will not be refunded.

This page is intentionally left blank

Rother District Council

Report to:	Licensing and General Purposes Committee
Date:	16 January 2023
Title:	Hackney Carriage Fares
Report of:	Head of Service - Environmental Services, Licensing and Community Safety
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of Report:	To consider increasing hackney carriage fares
Officer	
Recommendation(s):	It be RESOLVED : That the Hackney Carriage Fares Table Two at Appendix A be approved from April 2023

Background

1. The Council sets maximum hackney carriage fares in the district by adopting a fare card. Fares were last increased in May 2022 (by ten percent) and before that in December 2016. A ten percent increase in fares was advertised in December 2022 and representations were received. These maximum fares apply to hackney carriages only (which can operate from taxi ranks) not to private hire vehicles. The fares do not apply to journeys starting or ending outside the district.

Reasons for the proposed increase of ten percent

2. The increase in May 2022 was ten percent, the first increase since December 2016. The AA reports that fuel prices increased by 24% (twenty-four percent) between October 2016 and October 2021. The consumer price index (CPI) in October was 11.1 percent and in November 2022 was 10.7 percent.
3. To benefit the public and make the fare card easier to understand, the proposed fare table has been simplified by:
 - i. removing the higher tariffs from 22:30 to 01:00; from 01:00 to 05:30 and from 05:30 to 07:30
 - ii. thereby, only having only two tariffs on a normal day from 06:00 to 22:59 and from 23:00 to 05:59
4. To encourage hackney carriages to be available, the highest tariff would apply on Christmas Eve after 18:00 and on New Year's Eve after 18:00, as well as Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
5. Two other proposals are the charge for each additional person carried is increased from 20p to 30p and no increase in waiting time. The soiling charge is increased but this is a discretionary charge, determined by the driver.

6. It is important that hackney carriage fares are increased periodically to attract new hackney carriage owners and drivers to work in Rother. Drivers and vehicle owners need to be able to earn a sufficient income.
7. Although hackney carriages face competition from the private hire trade, they offer a different service, waiting on taxi ranks, being hailed and therefore the public should expect to pay extra for this service. The fare card shows the maximum fare that can be charged, a driver may charge less.
8. These maximum fares do not apply to journeys that start or end outside the district, for example trips to airports, the Conquest hospital and DGH. In these cases, a higher fare can be charged, if this is agreed with the passenger in advance, in the same way that private hire vehicles operate.
9. There is a cost to hackney carriage owners in recalibrating their meters and a cost to the Council in administering this change; the exercise should not therefore take place too frequently. When an increase is made it needs to be at least 5% (five percent), to justify the costs involved.
10. When fare cards are adjusted, the yardages and waiting time (in seconds) are varied, to keep the price at a whole 10p, 20p, 30p or 40p. The meter calculates the cost of a fare to the nearest ten pence. It is a legal requirement to use yards rather than metres. Waiting time is only charged after a journey commences, when the vehicle is travelling less than five miles per hour.

Representations (Appendix B)

10. Representations were received from licensed drivers only, representing seven percent of drivers consulted. Four objected to the fare increase. Four supported the fare increase. Three supported the fare increase but not the simplified tariffs.

Options

11. To take no action (no increase in fares), to approve Table Two or amend Table Two at Appendix A, having regard to the representations received.

All meters to be recalibrated within 7 days

12. Our handbook requires all meters to be set to the Council's fares and requires meters to be updated within one week of a change being implemented. It is proposed that these requirements continue. Meters must be calibrated to run the Council's tariffs, but they can also run on other tariffs, provided they are always lower.

Conclusion

13. Hackney carriage fares were increased in May 2022, but before that they were last increased in December 2016. Since 2016, fuel costs have increased considerably and the CPI in October 2022 was 11.1 percent.

Crime and Disorder

14. Fares should be sufficient for it to be attractive for drivers to work at night and at anti-social times.

Risk Management

15. Failure to periodically increase hackney carriage fares may result in insufficient numbers of hackney carriages operating in the district in the future, creating inconvenience for the public and potentially affecting public safety and the late night economy. There are no rights to appeal this decision other than by Judicial Review.

Other Implications	Applies?	Other Implications	Applies?
Human Rights	No	Equalities and Diversity	No
Crime and Disorder	Yes	External Consultation	Yes
Environmental	No	Access to Information	No
Risk Management	Yes	Exempt from publication	No

Deputy Chief Executive:	Lorna Ford
Report Contact Officer:	Richard Parker-Harding, Head of Service
e-mail address:	richard.parker-harding@rother.gov.uk
Appendices:	A – Current and Proposed Fare Cards (Table One and Two) B – Representations received
Relevant Previous Minutes:	LG21/21
Background Papers:	NONE
Reference Documents:	NONE

Current Fare Card - Table One

With effect from 16 May 2022 as follows:-

	07:30 TO 22:30	22:30 TO 01:00 AND 05:30 TO 07:30 ON ANY DAY AND BANK HOLIDAYS 07:30 TO 22:30	01:00 TO 05:30 ON ANY DAY & ALL DAY CHRISTMAS DAY BOXING DAY NEW YEAR'S DAY
Any distance up to 152 yards	£3.00	£4.40	£5.80
Each additional 152 yards up to one mile	20p	30p	40p
Each additional 185.3 yards	20p	30p	40p
Waiting time	20p for 30 seconds	30p for 44 seconds	40p for 59 seconds

For each person conveyed in excess of one 20p

For each dog conveyed (no charge for assistance dogs) 20p

Soiling charge from £55

Proposed Fare Card - Table Two

with effect from 24 April 2023 as follows:-

	<u>06:00 TO 22:59</u>	<u>23:00 TO 05:59</u> <u>AND</u> <u>BANK HOLIDAYS</u>	<u>CHRISTMAS EVE AFTER 18:00 CHRISTMAS DAY BOXING DAY NEW YEAR EVE AFTER 18:00 NEW YEAR'S DAY</u>
Any distance up to 138.1 yards	£3.30	£4.80	£6.40
Each additional 138.1 yards up to one mile	20p	30p	40p
Each additional 167.6 yards	20p	30p	40p
Waiting time	20p for 30 seconds	30p for 44 seconds	40p for 59 seconds

For each person conveyed in excess of one 30p

For each dog conveyed (no charge for assistance dogs) 20p

Soiling charge from £100

Name	Support / Objection	Comments
L.E.	Objection to fare increase	I believe by increasing taxi fares at these difficult times will not be beneficial to our trade, therefore I REJECT this proposal.
A.W.	Objection to fare increase	I would like to object to the fare increase. Its the wrong time, yes I can totally understand that the cost of living is going up and the increase would be great for taxi drivers, but for the smaller metered company's such as Sidley taxis it would cause our customers to go the private hire on fixed fare. It would be more wise to keep the fares the same till the country has sorted itself out before we add to it
R.H.	Objection to fare increase	Due to the current financial climate I really don't think this is the time to be increasing fares. people with fixed low incomes are already struggling to pay for our services and would not be able to afford an increased fare and thus loose us trade from valued and vulnerable customers that rely on our services
S.S.	Objection to fare increase	<p>1. I write further to your communication regarding a 10% increase to the Taxi tariff. Please register my objection to this increase which comes on the back of a recent hefty rise and at a time when people (our customers) are struggling with cost of living increases.</p> <p>It is always stated that the tariff is the maximum amount to be charged and yet the council insists that meters are changed to the tariff rather than allowing continuance of fares at a lower amount. This means that should we not wish to pass on this increase to our customers we are faced with cumbersome calculations and a system which is not transparent to the customer. Furthermore this once again will leave us operating at a disadvantage to the numerous Hastings cabs who operate at a lower rate.</p> <p>I strongly urge that the council re thinks and shelves this increase or at least opens this up to a much wider discussion.</p> <p>2. This proposal would be very unwelcome . Fares have only just been increased people are struggling with the cost of living and can only spend money once. To put fares up again now is utter madness unless your motive is to destroy the taxi business in Bexhill .</p>

T.B.	Support increase but not simplified tariffs	Having seen the proposal of the new tariffs myself and believe many others will have objections, I am all for the increase in the rate but against all the other changes, I cannot understand why you cannot give us the change of increase and leave everything else alone, You give in 1 hand take away in the other																																										
A.D.C.	Support increase but not simplified tariffs	Having seen the proposed new tariff, I, and I imagine many others will have objections, I'm all for the rate increase, I'm against all the other changes, I cannot understand why you cannot give us an increase, and leave everything else alone. It's in 1 hand, and taken away with in the other.																																										
D.S.	Objects to simplified tariffs	<p>EXAMPLES FOR A 1 MILE - 1760 YDS - JOURNEY PER RATE</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>06.30am Fare eg. Little Common to Ravenside</u></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 35%;"><u>Rate 1</u></td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Current Rate effective 16th May 2022</td> <td><u>Up to 152 yds</u></td> <td><u>Additional 152 yds to 1 mile</u></td> <td><u>Total</u></td> <td></td> <td><u>Total Fare</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">£4.40</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10.6 x 20p</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£2.12</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">£6.52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Proposed Rate</td> <td><u>Up to 138.1 yds</u></td> <td><u>Additional 138.1 yds to 1 mile</u></td> <td><u>Total</u></td> <td></td> <td><u>Total Fare</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">£3.30</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11.7 x 20p</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£2.35</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">£5.65</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Loss of Earnings per Mile</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">-£0.87</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Rate 1</u>						Current Rate effective 16th May 2022	<u>Up to 152 yds</u>	<u>Additional 152 yds to 1 mile</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Total Fare</u>		£4.40	10.6 x 20p	£2.12		£6.52	Proposed Rate	<u>Up to 138.1 yds</u>	<u>Additional 138.1 yds to 1 mile</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Total Fare</u>		£3.30	11.7 x 20p	£2.35		£5.65						Loss of Earnings per Mile						-£0.87
		<u>Rate 1</u>																																										
Current Rate effective 16th May 2022	<u>Up to 152 yds</u>	<u>Additional 152 yds to 1 mile</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Total Fare</u>																																							
	£4.40	10.6 x 20p	£2.12		£6.52																																							
Proposed Rate	<u>Up to 138.1 yds</u>	<u>Additional 138.1 yds to 1 mile</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Total Fare</u>																																							
	£3.30	11.7 x 20p	£2.35		£5.65																																							
					Loss of Earnings per Mile																																							
					-£0.87																																							

		<u>Rate 2 03:00am Fare</u> <u>eg Gatwick Pickup</u>			
		<u>Up to 152 yds</u>	<u>Additional 152 yds to 1 mile</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total Fare</u>
	Current Rate effective 16th May 2022	£5.80	10.6 x 20p	£4.24	£10.04
		<u>Up to 138.1 yds</u>	<u>Additional 138.1 yds to 1 mile</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total Fare</u>
	Proposed Rate	£4.80	11.7 x 20p	£3.51	£8.31
Loss of Earnings per Mile					-£1.73
<p>Taxi drivers are losing the double pay for the unsociable hours of 01.00 to 05.30am which I feel is completely unacceptable for drivers who have no choice but to work those hours due to the current cost of living crisis.</p> <p>On the BBC 6 o'clock news tonight it was stated that according to government figures there has been a 16% decrease in taxi drivers in Kent and Sussex since 2020. As the taxi service is often considered the 4th vital service to the community these new proposed fare changes not only disadvantage existing taxi drivers but will deter future drivers applying for their taxi licences as on a daily basis they will be losing money.</p>					
A.I.	Support	Thank you for letting us know the new price but I'm not happy with that price do you know how much cost to run the car first of all thank you very much			
M.S.	Support	Yes I agree.			
K.D.	Support	Im happy about that			
N.M.	Support	I fully support the proposed fare increases across the board.			

This page is intentionally left blank

Rother District Council

Report to: Licensing and General Purposes Committee

Date: 16 January 2023

Title: Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licence Fees

Report of: Head of Service - Environmental Services, Licensing and Community Safety

Ward(s): All

Purpose of Report: To consult on increasing operator and vehicle licence fees.

Officer

Recommendation(s): It be **RESOLVED**: That:

- 1) the Council commence a consultation on increasing operator and vehicle licence fees; and
- 2) if there are no objections received, driver fees are increased from 1 April 2023.

Background

1. The Council sets fees for taxi licensing.
2. Under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 subsection 53(2), fees for hackney carriage and private hire licences have to be reasonable with a view to recovering the cost of issue, administration and enforcement of conditions, but not raising revenue. Council policy is that when setting fee levels the aim of the authority will be to try and ensure the income received equals the expenditure incurred in providing the licensing function.
3. Operator and vehicle licence fees were last increased in 2011.
4. Subsection 70(3) sets out special requirements in relation to hackney carriage and private hire operator and vehicle licences. In these cases, a notice must be published in a local newspaper stating the proposed fees and giving 28 days for objections to be received. If there are no objections the increase may be implemented, but otherwise the matter must be reported back to this Committee for consideration of the objections.

Reasons for the proposed increase

5. The budget for taxi licensing decreased following the creation of the shared service in 2013 and during the pandemic income reduced.
6. Officers have estimated the time involved in issuing and enforcing conditions for different licences, as set out in Appendix A.

7. The tables below sets out the current budget position

Table A	Without increase in fees	
	22/23 ESTIMATE	23/24 ESTIMATE
Salaries	47,600	48,000
Operational Costs	6,500	8,000
Expenditure	54,100	56,000
Income	-67,000	-67,000
Net cost before support services	-12,900	-11,000
Support Service	70,000	70,000
Total Cost	57,100	59,000

Table B	With increase in fees	
	22/23 ESTIMATE	23/24 ESTIMATE
Salaries	47,600	48,000
Operational Costs	6,500	8,000
Expenditure	54,100	56,000
Income	-67,000	-75,000
Net cost before support services	-12,900	-19,000
Support Service	70,000	70,000
Total Cost	57,100	51,000

Table C- Proposed Fees 2023/24

Type of Licence	Number per year	Current fee 22/23	Proposed fee 23/24	Proposed increase	Predicted income
Dual Driver (new-1 year)	5	£235	£260	11%	£1,300
Dual Driver (new-3 years)	10	£480	£520	8%	£5,200
Dual Driver (renewal-1 year)	8	£210	£240	14%	£1,920
Dual Driver (renewal-3 years)	40	£370	£480	30%	£19,200
HC vehicle - renewal	95	£240	£280	17%	£26,600
HC vehicle - new	24	£240	£320	33%	£7,680
PH vehicle - renewal	35	£225	£280	24%	£9,800
PH vehicle - new	5	£225	£320	42%	£1,600
PH Operator (3 years, <20 vehicles)	5	£315	£320	2%	£1,600
PH Operator (5 years, <20 vehicles)	1	£525	£520	-1%	£520
PH Operator (3 years, >20 vehicles)	0	£630	£640	2%	£0
PH Operator (5 years, >20 vehicles)	0	£1,000	£1,000	0%	£0
TOTAL					£75,420

Conclusion

8. Operator and vehicle licence fees have not been increased since 2011. Increases are proposed that consider the time required to process and enforce conditions attached to that licence. The proposed increases in the operator and vehicle licence fees must be consulted on. If there are no objections the new fees will be implemented from 1 April 2023. If objections are received, they will be referred back to this committee for determination.

Legal Implications:

9. Contained within the report.

Financial Implications:

10. The Council must increase its income to reduce the dependence on the use of reserves to balance the budget.

Risk Management:

11. Failure to increase licence fees will mean the cost of providing the service will be increasingly borne by the Council Taxpayer.

Other Implications	Applies?	Other Implications	Applies?
Human Rights	No	Equalities and Diversity	No
Crime and Disorder	No	External Consultation	Yes
Environmental	No	Access to Information	No
Risk Management	Yes	Exempt from publication	No

Deputy Chief Executive:	Lorna Ford
Report Contact Officer:	Richard Parker-Harding, Head of Service
e-mail address:	Richard.parker-harding@rother.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix A-Fees calculation Appendix B- Budget since 2015/16
Relevant Previous Minutes:	LG08/23 LG10/18
Background Papers:	None
Reference Documents:	None

Table showing hours per licence type

Type	Hours	Cost £
Driver-new-1 year	6.5	260
Driver-new-3 years	13	520
Driver-renewal-1 year	6	240
Driver-renewal-3 years	12	480
HC vehicle-new	8	320
HC vehicle-renewal	7	280
PH vehicle-new	8	320
PH vehicle-renewal	7	280
PH operator- 3 years	8	320
PH operator- 5 years	13	520
PH operator- 3 years > 20 vehicles	16	640
PH operator- 5 years > 20 vehicles	26	1,040

Budget from 2015/16

Year	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23 ESTIMATE	23/24 ESTIMATE
Salaries	56,690	51,665	43,971	49,130	48,016	32,439	42,564	47,600	48,000
Operational Costs	8,109	8,058	5,810	13,656	11,618	14,745	6,722	6,500	8,000
Expenditure	64,799	59,723	49,781	62,786	59,634	47,184	49,286	54,100	56,000
Income	-79,266	-88,510	-76,510	-80,175	-89,105	-66,551	-68,172	-67,000	-67,000*
Net cost before support services	-14,467	-28,787	-26,729	-17,389	-29,471	-19,367	-18,886	-12,900	-11,000
Support Service	32,622	77,882	87,075	72,524	78,140	87,144	67,124	70,000	70,000
Total Cost	18,155	49,095	60,346	55,135	48,669	67,777	48,238	57,100	59,000*

*= no increase in fees