

## 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

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

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

**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
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>£75,420</b>

**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.

<b>Other Implications</b>	<b>Applies?</b>	<b>Other Implications</b>	<b>Applies?</b>
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
<b>Expenditure</b>	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*
<b>Net cost before support services</b>	-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
<b>Total Cost</b>	18,155	49,095	60,346	55,135	48,669	67,777	48,238	57,100	59,000*

\*= no increase in fees