

TAXI LICENSING

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members to consider the recommendations of the Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee which met on 20 February 2004 in a consultative capacity with representatives of the taxi trade.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Council, by virtue of a regulatory requirement with respect to the licensing of Hackney Carriage and private hire vehicles and drivers, meets with trade representatives twice a year to discuss charges for services provided (around February each year) and any proposed taxi tariff change (around June/July each year). At the meeting on 20 February Members noted the background to the formulation of proposals, a key aspect being that charges to the trade should provide a cost neutral service to Council Tax payers. It was also noted that the charges would come into effect on 1 April 2004 and that, since reported publication, the Criminal Records Bureau had advised that its charge for Criminal Records Disclosures would be set at £33.00.

- 2.2 Members also considered a number of guidance indicators, which might help them consider any future request for increases to the taxi tariff. Officers were directed to provide year on year comparisons for:-

- RPIX - the General Retail Prices Index, excluding Mortgage interest payments
- CPI – the Government's inflation target figure
- The percentage increase associated with pensions.
- The percentage increase in Council Tax
- The percentage increase associated with wages
- The percentage increase with the insurance cover required for 'hire and reward'

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) That, there being no strong objections from the taxi trade to the proposed charges and subject to the charge for Criminal Record Disclosures being set at £33.00, the 2004/05 charges for Hackney

Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles be as set out on the Schedule appended to the report (these having previously been agreed by Council, subject to this consultation process).

- (2) That officers provide statistical information on the indices/indicators identified in the above bullet points to assist the Sub-Committee when giving future consideration to the 2004/05 Hackney Carriage fare tariff. (HRHM)

S J Clarkson

Head of Revenue and Housing Management

Background Papers:

None

For further information please contact Steve Clarkson on:-

Tel:- 01702 318005
E-Mail:- steve.clarkson@rochford.gov.uk

APPENDIX

SCHEDULE OF DISCRETIONARY CHARGES

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENSING

Charge
2004/05
£

Vehicle Licence

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence	250.00
Wheelchair Accessible Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence	200.00
Private Hire Vehicle Licence	200.00
Wheelchair Accessible Private Hire Vehicle Licence	150.00

Other Charges

Interim vehicle inspection (for vehicles over 6 years old)	30.00
Replacement Vehicle Licence Plate	10.00
Replacement Drivers Badge	10.00
Replacement Door Stickers (x2)	10.00
Magnetic Door Sticker (Private Hire only) (x2)	15.00
Replacement Flexiplate Platform	10.00
Change of Vehicle	50.00
Transfer of Interest	20.00

Drivers

Drivers Licences

Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Drivers Licence - First Application	100.00
Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Drivers Licence - Renewal	50.00
Both Drivers Licences - First Application	120.00
Both Drivers Licences - Renewal	70.00

Criminal Records Disclosure (charge set by CRB)	33.00
---	-------

Private Hire Operators Licences

Annual Licence - up to 3 vehicles / per annum	70.00
Annual Licence - Over 3 vehicles	100.00