

REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE



DATE	9 th November 2022
PORTFOLIO	Community & Environment
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Taxi Licence Fees 2023

PURPOSE

1. To determine the level of taxi licence fees effective from January 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

2. To propose that fees remain unchanged

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. Taxi fees are set to recover those costs which are permitted by legislation from the holders of taxi licences. The costs include issuing and administering all taxi licences, together with the costs of supervision and control of vehicle and operator licences, and the costs of inspection and provision of hackney ranks.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. Taxi licence fee setting is a function of the Licensing Committee. Sections 53 and 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 permit the Council to set driver, vehicle and operator licence fees to recover certain specified costs. The effect of the legislation is that the service must not generate a profit to the Council. There are some costs which cannot legally be recovered from fees and are borne by the Council's general fund.
5. Whenever it is proposed to vary vehicle and operator fees so that the fees exceed £25, the legislation requires that a 28 day public notice of the proposed fee must be advertised. As no variation is proposed at this time, no advertisement costs will be incurred.

6. In Burnley the vehicle test element is payable direct to one of the testing stations approved to carry out taxi testing, each testing station sets their own charges within a competitive marketplace. Compulsory safeguarding training and safer cabbying tests are also paid directly to the provider, as are the costs associated with DBS update service costs and medical checks.
7. In 2015 a framework methodology was agreed with the trade to recover appropriate costs from each regime. It was agreed that there would be a full review of fees every three years, to correspond with the duration of a driver licence, and that a light touch review would take place each year so that any significant shifts in expenditure could be accommodated. Last year marked the end of the agreed 3 year period when a comprehensive review was carried out, and so no increase is required at this time unless there is a compelling reason to do so.
8. Having reviewed the income and expenditure with Finance colleagues, the budget is in line with expectations and no changes are proposed to fees at this time.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

9. Fees seek to recover permitted costs in accordance with the Council's taxi fee policy.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

10. None.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

11. Taxi Task Group endorsed the proposal 20th October 2022
12. Councillors Sumner, Khan & Hussain

BACKGROUND PAPERS

13. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

Joanne Swift

ALSO:

Karen Davies