

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023**

**PLANNING, RIGHTS OF WAY AND TAXI LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**REPORT AUTHOR: Licensing Team Manager – SUE JONES**

**REPORT TITLE: Taxi Licensing Fees 2023/24**

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**REPORT FOR: Decision**

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**1. Purpose**

1.1 To consider Taxi Licensing fees for the period April 2023-24

**2. Background**

2.1 The setting of fees is governed by The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, it allows for the recovery of costs in connection with administering, controlling, and supervising the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing regime.

2.2 Fees are calculated using a toolkit devised by the All-Wales Licensing Expert Panel with assistance from our finance team. The committee usually approves fees for consultation at this time of year ready for implementation the following April 1st.

2.3 Proposed fees for 2023/24 are set out below :

	2020/21 & 21/22	2022/23	Proposed 23/24	
Vehicles (1 year) Hackney Carriage Private Hire	£148	£130	£146	
Driver Licence (3 year)	£260	£248	£270.50	excludes DBS fee (currently £40.50)
Driver Licence (1 year – on request)	£150	£140	£146	excludes DBS fee
Private Hire Operators (5 years)	£405	£387	£358	excludes DBS fee

- 2.5 In the report to committee last year members were advised that fees came out less for 22/23 due to licensing officers being involved in the covid response and enforcement of covid regulations (during 20/21), in addition to streamlining of processes. Fees for 23/24 reflect business starting to return to usual whilst retaining some of the efficiencies gained by shifting to online application submissions. The level of compliance checks for vehicles has not yet returned to pre-covid levels, however.
- 2.6 Members will note that whilst, as expected most fees will have increased, the operator fees have gone down. The explanation for this is that the data used for the toolkit has been refined so that general costs associated with administration of the taxi regime (rather than the individual costs of processing an individual application) were previously shared 3 ways equally across the 3 licence types - operators, vehicle, and drivers. They are now shared pro-rata depending on the number of licences of that type – there are less operators than there are vehicle and drivers hence less of these costs are attributed to operators, previously operator fees would have been disproportionately affected by fluctuations in these costs.

Licence figures December 2022:

Joint Driver Licences	454
Private Hire Operators	62
Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Vehicles	390

- 2.7 For 23/24 the difference in income on the proposed vs current fees is approx. £8500 equating to a 10% increase overall.
- 2.8 Should members approve the revised table of fees then The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Section 70 requires them to be advertised in the local press giving at least 28 days for objections.
- 2.9 Any objections to the proposed fees will need to be considered and reported back to this committee along with any revisions considered appropriate. If no objections are made, then these fees will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023
- 3. Advice**
- 3.1 Fees need to be reviewed periodically to ensure that full cost recovery is achieved. Staffing costs, on-costs and the cost of materials have all increased, if fees are not reviewed then the fees may not achieve full cost recovery. The All-Wales tool kit was devised to enable us to establish a fee. The fees proposed have been set using this toolkit in

consultation with our finance team and are therefore recommended for approval.

#### **4. Resource Implications**

- 4.1 The costs for advertising the fees and the officer work in relation to determination of costs and calculating the fees, production of this report and presenting to committee will be recovered in the next fee review (to determine 2024/25 fees) in the same way that costs and officer work to determine fees for 22/23 are recovered in this review.

#### **5. Legal implications**

- 5.1 The setting of fees is governed by The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. It only permits cost recovery for administering, controlling, and supervising the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing regime. Fees cannot be routinely uplifted; they must be transparent and can be subject to legal challenge. Compliant fees are based on actual costs.

#### **6. Data Protection**

- 6.1 There are no implications for processing of personal data in the consideration or approval of this report.

#### **7. Comment from local member(s)**

- 7.1 N/A fees are Powys wide.

#### **8. Integrated Impact Assessment**

- 8.1 N/A - Statutory requirement to charge a compliant fee.

#### **9. Recommendation**

- 9.1 That taxi fees for 2023/24 are approved to go out for consultation in the local press in line with statutory requirements and if not objected to will be in place for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. Any objections to the fees will come back to this committee for consideration.

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