



## Policy and Resources Committee – 10 September 2012

### Fees & Charges for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles

**Purpose of report:** To consider revised fees and charges for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles

#### Attachment(s)

None

#### 1.0 Background

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows local authorities to recover the costs for the grant of a vehicle licence. This can include the inspections, administration and control of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. This matter is placed before members as significant changes have occurred in the costs associated with this service.

#### 2.0 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Fees

2.1 The vehicle inspection regime involves nominating two garages within our District to inspect the vehicles on the fleet. This service has been subject to a tender process and the fees for the tests overall have been reduced. In addition, operational changes have realised lower costs in delivering this service.

2.2 There have been recent cases where fees have been challenged by the trade as local authorities are not able to profit from vehicle licensing. As a result of the new inspection costs and the operational changes revised fees have been calculated. We undertake regular consultation with the trade through bi annual meetings and their comments on fees and charges are taken into account.

#### 3.0 Proposed Fees

3.1 The table below shows our existing and our proposed fees.

	Existing Fee	Proposed Fee
Hackney Carriage Vehicle Fee	£293	£259
Private Hire Vehicle Fee	£293	£259

3.2 Prior to issuing a licence the applicant must provide a series of documents and information relating to the vehicle. Part of this process involves their vehicle passing a vehicle inspection conducted at one of our garages, the cost of this first test must be met by the applicant. As costs are incurred in the inspection and administration of the licence and these costs are fully recovered this also means no refunds will be given if applicants terminate their licence early.

3.3 Other local authorities' fees and charges are not included within this report as they are not comparable. This is due to different numbers of tests, duration of licence and licence requirements. The above fees will recover the costs of the service but ensure we do not profit from the licensing process.

#### 4.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

4.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from the proposals.

#### 5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications other than those detailed within the report arising from the proposals.

#### 6.0 Risk Management

6.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

#### 7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 There are financial implications associated with the above proposals. Currently we have 103 licences costing £293 which totals £30,179 by reducing the fee to £259 income will be predicted to be £26,677. The income generated by the authority for vehicle licensing will reduce by about £3,500, however, this is offset by reduced costs of service delivery also by £3,500.

#### 8.0 Corporate Outcomes

8.1 The proposals will contribute to the following Corporate Outcomes:

- Good Value for Money
- High Quality Service Delivery

#### 9.0 Recommendation

10.1 The Committee is recommended to

- (1) Adopt the fees and charges for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles, as detailed above, to ensure we comply with the legislation concerning fees and charges for vehicles.

<b>Legal</b>	Power: Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976				
	Other considerations:				
<b>Background Papers:</b> None					
<b>Person Originating Report:</b> Julia Smith Commercial Health Manager <a href="mailto:jsmith@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk">jsmith@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk</a> Tel. 01832 742066					
<b>Date:</b> 27 July 2012					
<b>CFO</b>		<b>MO</b>		<b>CX</b>	