

**Licensing for Taxis and Private Hire Cars and Drivers  
Licence Fees****Report by Director, Resources****1 Purpose of Report**

To appraise Members of the background to the approach to Licence Fees for Taxis and Private Hire Cars and Drivers.

**2 Background**

- 2.1** On 13 March 2014, at the Meeting of the Hire Car Liaison Group, the representatives of the Taxi Owners' Association made representation that the increase in Licence Fees for Taxis and Private Hire Cars and Drivers be not applied until the outcome of the current round of discussions are concluded. In addition, potential anomalies in the fee structure were raised, including the fairness of requiring full fees for brand new vehicles. Separately, support was forthcoming for the introduction of licences for three years for drivers which will bring with it a reassessment of the relative fees.

At its Meeting on 4 March 2014, Council approved an increase, the first since 2011, of 5% – 6% in Fees and Charges, with effect from 1 May 2014, as shown in the **Appendix**.

**3 Report Implications****3.1 Resource**

There are potential resource implications arising directly from this report, namely, a reduction in revenue if the increase in fees and charges is abated.

**3.2 Risk**

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

**3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

**3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan**

There are no implications arising directly from this report.

### **3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

There are no implications arising directly from this report.

### **3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

There are no implications arising directly from this report.

### **3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

The matter arose from a suggestion which was made during consultation with representatives of the Hire Car Associations.

### **3.7 Ensuring Equalities**

There are no implications arising directly from this report.

### **3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development**

There are no implications arising directly from this report.

### **3.9 IT Issues**

There are no implications arising directly from this report.

## **4 Summary**

The representatives of the Midlothian Taxi Owners' Association request the Council to delay imposing an increase in the Fees until the current round of discussions are concluded.

Given that Council has approved the level of fees and charges, it is considered that that decision should stand ie that the request by the Association be not acceded to.

The level of Drivers' Fees will be reassessed in connection with the plan to introduce extended term licences and the matter will be progressed in consultation with the work of the Council's Short Term Working Group on Fees and Charges.

## **5 Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:-

(a) Note that consideration will be given to the level of Fees for extended terms of Driver's licences in consultation with the Short Term Working Group on Fees and Charges; and

(b) Note the comments that had been made.

**Date 25 March 2014**

**Report Contact:**

Name Bob Atack Tel No 0131 271 3161

[atackb@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:atackb@midlothian.gov.uk)

**Background Papers: report of meeting held on 13 March 2014**

Description of Charge	Last increase date	Current Charge	New Charge
Private Hire Car Licence First Year (includes cost of plates)	Apr 11	£244.00	£258.65
Private Hire Car Licence Renewal (includes cost of plates)	Apr 11	£266.00	£282.00
Private Hire Car Licence Application Fee (initial application only)	Apr 11	£57.00	£60.45
Taxi Licence Application Fee (initial application only)	Apr 11	£57.00	£60.45
Taxi Licence First Year ( includes cost of plates)	Apr 11	£250.00	£265.00
Taxi Licence Renewal ( includes cost of plates)	Apr 11	£260.00	£275.60
Special Events Application Fee (initial application only)	Apr 11	£57.00	£60.45
Special Events First Year (includes cost of plates)	Apr 11	£244.00	£258.65
Special Events Renewal (includes cost of plates)	Apr 11	£260.00	£275.60
Taxi Driver Licence First Year	Apr 11	£78.00	£82.70
Taxi Driver Licence Renewal	Apr 11	£38.00	£40.30
Private Hire Driver Licence First Year	Apr 11	£56.00	£59.40
Private Hire Driver Licence Renewal	Apr 11	£38.00	£40.30
Hire Car Booking Office Licence (first application)	Apr 11	£220.00	£231.00
Hire Car Booking Office Licence (renewal)	Apr 11	£220.00	£231.00
Replacement Private Hire Car Disc	Apr 11	£11.00	£12.00
Replacement Private Hire Car Plate	Apr 11	£9.00	£9.00
Replacement Private Hire Car Bracket for Plate	Apr 11	£9.00	£11.55
Replacement Taxi Plate - Front	Apr 11	£8.00	£8.00
Replacement Taxi Plate - Rear	Apr 11	£10.00	£10.00
Replacement Taxi Plate - Internal	Apr 11	£4.00	£4.00
Copy Licence	Apr 11	£14.00	£15.00
Copy Identification Card	Apr 11	£14.00	£15.00
Taxi Adjust Licence Change of Vehicle : inspection Required (includes cost of plates)	Apr 11	£40.00	£60.00
Taxi Adjust Licence Change of Vehicle : No Inspection Required (includes cost of plates)	Apr 11	£22.00	£27.10
Private Hire Car Adjust Licence Change of Vehicle	Apr 11	£59.00	£61.95
Private Hire Car Adjust Licence Change of Vehicle	Apr 11	£40.00	£42.00
Adjust Licence Change of Vehicle at Renewal (Taxi and Private Hire Car)	Apr 11	n/a	n/a
Cherished Registration Plate	Apr 11	£41.00	£43.05
Re-inspection Charge (Taxi and Private Hire Car)	Apr 11	£40.00	£42.00
Cancellation of Inspection Appointment (Taxi and Private Hire Car)	Apr 11	£40.00	£42.00
Post Red Sticker Examination (Taxi and Private Hire Car)	Apr 11	£40.00	£42.00
Taxi Advertisement - Internal	Apr 11	£15.00	£16.05
Taxi Advertisement - External	Apr 11	£41.00	£43.05
Taxi Advertisement - Superside	Apr 11	£48.00	£49.95
Taxi Advertisement - Full Livery	Apr 11	£82.00	£86.10
Private Hire Car Advertisement	Apr 11	£41.00	£43.05

### **Declaration Box**

**Instructions:** *This box must be completed by the author of the report. The box will be copied and saved by the Council Secretariat who will delete it from the report prior to photocopying the agenda.*

**Title of Report:**

**Meeting Presented to:**

**Author of Report:**

*I confirm that I have undertaken the following actions before submitting this report to the Council Secretariat (Check boxes to confirm):-*

- ☐ *All resource implications have been addressed. Any financial and HR implications have been approved by the Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support.*
- ☐ *All risk implications have been addressed.*
- ☐ *All other report implications have been addressed.*
- ☐ *My Director has endorsed the report for submission to the Council Secretariat.*

*For Cabinet reports, please advise the Council Secretariat if the report has an education interest. This will allow the report to be located on the Cabinet agenda among the items in which the Religious Representatives are entitled to participate.*

*Likewise, please advise the Council Secretariat if any report for Midlothian Council has an education interest. The Religious Representatives are currently entitled to attend meetings of the Council in a non-voting observer capacity, but with the right to speak (but not vote) on any education matter under consideration, subject always to observing the authority of the Chair.*