

**Extended Term Licences for Taxis and Private Hire Cars and Drivers
(and Window Cleaners and Street Traders) etc****Report by Director, Resources****1 Purpose of Report**

To seek to update Members concerning the introduction of licences for extended terms.

2 Background**2.1** On 1 April 2014, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note that consideration would be given to the level of Fees for extended terms of Drivers' licences, in consultation with the Short Term Working Group on Fees and Charges; and (ii) to note the comments that had been made by the Association.
- (ii) in principle, to continue to participate in the joint arrangement with the City of Edinburgh and West Lothian Councils and the Police at the Taxi Examination Centre in Edinburgh, currently at Murrayburn Road, but expected to move to premises at Russell Road, both Edinburgh; and consequently, to decline the request by the Taxi Owners' Association as regards any alternative method of approach; and
- (iii) (1) that the introduction of three year licences for drivers be approved, subject to further examination of the proposal that the individual licence-holders meet the cost of their medical examinations; and the fixing of the Fees by the Council, following consultation with the Short Term Working Group on Fees and Charges; and (2) having noted that it had been thought, initially, that it may be appropriate also to provide for extended term licences for taxis and private hire cars, to authorise Officers to examine this and, if potential benefits were perceived, further action be taken to enable consideration to be given to the introduction, similarly, of licences for extended terms for Taxis and Private Hire Cars.

2.2 Extended Term Licences

On 1 May 2014, the Short Life Working Group on Fees and Charges agreed to recommend approval of extended term licences ie including Window Cleaners and Street Traders, as shown in the **Appendix hereto**; (and (ii) that it be remitted to the Director, in consultation with the Chairs of the Working Group / General Purposes Committee / Provost as Chair of Council to revise also charges relating to Houses in Multiple Occupation).

2.3 Taxi Examination Centre

On 1 April 2014, the Committee agreed, in principle, to continue to participate in the joint arrangement with the City of Edinburgh and West Lothian Councils and the Police; and consequently, to decline the request by the Taxi Owners' Association as regards any alternative method of approach.

West Lothian Council have agreed to continue to participate in the joint arrangement.

The City of Edinburgh Council is progressing the matter with a view to the new arrangement being in place by mid October 2014. The immediate preference is to secure the removal of the facility for Murrayburn Road to Russell Road, Edinburgh, following alterations. A Service Level Agreement will be drawn up to cover the following:-

- (a) Costs;
- (b) Governance;
- (c) Termination of Contract;
- (d) Staffing;
- (e) Referalls; and
- (f) Dispute Resolution.

A project Manager will be appointed soon.

2.4 Hire Car Liaison Group

A Meeting of the Hire Car Liaison Group will take place later this month.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

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 Hire Car Associations were consulted.

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

4.1 Extended Term Licences

The Short Life Working Group on Fees and Charges have recommended approval of extended term licences ie including Window Cleaners and Street Traders. The introduction of licences for three year terms for drivers is supported by the Trade.

As regards Drivers' Licences, the cost of medical examinations, if left to the individuals, will entail periodic personal additional costs eg three yearly examinations for those with Cardiac problems, five yearly medical examinations for drivers aged 45 years and at five yearly intervals thereafter. It would be intended that a separate Guidance Note be produced as regards the various Medical conditions that need to be assessed.

There appear to be benefits also in introducing three year Taxi and Private Hire Car Licences.

Prior consultation with the Trade is considered desirable. A Meeting of the Hire Car Liaison Group is planned.

The fees for HMOs will be reviewed against the Revised Statutory Guidance.

4.2 Taxi Examination Centre

Progress has been made as regards the new arrangements at the Taxi Examination Centre.

5 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (a) Note the report;
- (b) Approve further dialogue with the Hire Car Liaison Group; and other licence-holders;

- (c) Note progress made as regards the Taxi Examination Centre;
and
- (d) Note that revised fees and charges relating to Houses in Multiple Occupation will be introduced.

Date 5 May 2014

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Background Papers: note of meeting of Hire Car Liaison Group

APPENDIX

Hire Cars and Drivers Review of Terms and Fees

Taxi Driver Licence First Year	£82.70
Taxi Driver Licence Renewal one Year	£40.30
Taxi Driver Licence Renewal two Years (2 x £40.30 – 5%)	£76.57
Taxi Driver Licence Renewal three Years (3 x £40.30 – 10%)	£100.81
Private Hire Driver Licence First Year	£59.40
Private Hire Driver Licence Renewal one Year	£40.30
Private Hire Driver Licence Renewal two Years (as above)	£76.57
Private Hire Driver Licence Renewal three Years (as above)	£100.81
ie on the basis that Drivers meet the cost of medical examinations	
And if the Vehicles were included	
Private Hire Car Licence Application Fee (initial application only)	£60.45
Private Hire Car Licence (incl cost of plates) First Year	£258.65
Private Hire Car Licence (incl cost of plates) Renewal	£282.00
Private Hire Car Licence interim (incl cost of plates) in year 2 (-5%)	£267.90
Private Hire Car Licence interim (incl cost of plates) in year 3 (-10%)	£253.80
Private Hire Car Licence Renewal (includes cost of at end of year three	£282.00
Similarly the other fees could be fixed	
Taxi Licence Application Fee (initial application only)	£60.45
Taxi Licence First Year (includes cost of plates)	£265.00
Taxi Licence Renewal (includes cost of plates)	£275.60
Taxi interim Renewal (includes cost of plates) in Year 2 (-5%)	£261.82
Taxi interim Renewal (includes cost of plates) in Year 3 (-10%)	£248.04
Taxi Licence Renewal (includes cost of plates)	£275.60
Special Events Application Fee (initial application only)	£60.45
Special Events First Year (includes cost of plates)	£258.65
Special Events Renewal (includes cost of plates)	£275.60
Special Events interim (includes cost of plates) in year 2 (-5%)	£261.82
Special Events interim (includes cost of plates) in year 3 (-10%)	£248.04
Special Events Renewal (includes cost of plates)	£275.60

ie the fees in Year two could be decreased by 5% and in Year three by 10%.

APPENDIX (Cont)		
Window Cleaners and Street Traders		
<u>Description of Charge</u>	Charge	Proposed Charge
Window Cleaner Licence First Year	£58.80	£58.80
Window Cleaner Licence Renewal	£39.90	£39.80
Window Cleaner Licence Year 2 (£39.90 x 2 – 5%)		£75.82
Window Cleaner Licence Year 3 (£39.90 x 3 – 10%)		£107.73
Window Cleaner Licence Renewal (£39.90 x 3 – 10%)	£39.90	£107.73
Street Trader Licence First Year (including vehicles)	£128.10	£128.10
Street Trader Licence Renewal	£102.90	£102.90
Street Trader Licence Year 2 (including vehicles) (less element for examination)		£148.01
Street Trader Licence Year 3 (including vehicles) (less element for examination)		£210.33
Street Trader Licence Renewal (1)	£102.90	£102.90
Street Trader Licence Renewal (3)		£273.33
Wheelie Bin Cleaner Licence First Year	£115.50	£115.50
Wheelie Bin Cleaner Licence Renewal	£82.95	£82.95
Wheelie Bin Cleaner Licence Year 2 (less element for examination)		£138.51
Wheelie Bin Cleaner Licence Year 3 (less element for examination)		£196.83
Wheelie Bin Cleaner Licence Renewal (1)	£82.95	£82.95
Wheelie Bin Cleaner Licence Renewal (3) + cost of insp		£196.83
Other Street Trader Licence First Year (requiring no inspections)	£59.85	£59.85
Other Street Trader Licence Year 2 (requiring no inspections) (-5%)		£74.10
Other Street Trader Licence Year 3 (requiring no inspections) (-10%)		£107.73
Other Street Trader Licence Renewal (requiring no inspections) (1)	£39.90	£39.90
Other Street Trader Licence Renewal (requiring no inspections) (3)		£107.90

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.