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The Chair and Members of Appeals and Regulatory Committee

1 March 2023

Dear Councillor,

Please attend a meeting of the APPEALS AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE to be held on WEDNESDAY, 8 MARCH 2023 at 10.30 am in Committee Room 2 Town Hall Chesterfield, the agenda for which is set out below.

AGENDA

Part 1(Public Information)

- Declarations of Members' and Officers' Interests relating to items on the agenda
- 2. Apologies for Absence
- 3. Minutes (Pages 3 4)
- 4. Review of Licence and Registration Fees 2022/23 (Pages 5 28)

Yours sincerely,

Head of Regulatory Law and Monitoring Officer

Chesterfield Borough Council, Town Hall, Rose Hill, Chesterfield S40 1LP Telephone: 01246 345 345, Text: 07960 910 264, Email: info@chesterfield.gov.uk



APPEALS AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 8th February, 2023

Present:-

Councillor A Murphy (Chair)

Councillors Perkins Councillors Flood
Bellamy Miles
Bingham Redihough
G Falconer

90 <u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS</u> RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

No declarations of interest were received.

91 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Innes, Marriott, S Niblock and Rogers.

92 MINUTES

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Appeals and Regulatory Committee held on 18 January, 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

93 UNMET DEMAND REPORT 2022/23

The Licensing Officer presented a report to advise the committee of the results from the latest Hackney Carriage Unmet Demand Survey carried out in 2022 so a decision could be made on future policy.

In December 2010 members decided to limit the number of Hackney Carriages licensed by the council to 110. At that time there were 183 vehicles licensed as hackney carriages, the figure now stands at 138.

^{*}Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

The committee were met with three options to consider;

- 1. Retain the limit on the number of hackney carriage vehicles at 110.
- 2. Increase the limit on the number of hackney carriage vehicles.
- 3. Remove the limit on the number of hackney carriage vehicles.

*RESOLVED -

That the policy remains the same with the limit of 110 in place to cap the number of Hackney Carriage Licence's held within the Borough.

Agenda Item 4

FOR PUBLICATION

AGENDA ITEM

REVIEW OF LICENCE AND REGISTRATION FEES 2022/23

MEETING: APPEALS AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE

DATE: 8 MARCH 2022

REPORT BY: LICENSING MANAGER

WARDS: ALL

COMMUNITY

FORUMS:

ALL

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To report on representations made during the consultation on a proposal to increase taxi fees and charges from 1 April 2023.

2.0 **BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The committee considered a report on increased fees and charges for several regulatory areas on 14 December 2022 and approved increases from 1 April 2023. A copy of that report and appendices is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 To facilitate the increase for the taxi trade, the proposed fees and charges had to be advertised and consulted on. The consultation ended on 24 February 2023 and eleven representations were made.
- 2.3 The representations are reproduced in full at Appendix B, essentially arguing against the increase in fees at a time of prices increasing, the common theme being it is inappropriate to increase fees and charges when many other living costs are also going up. Some appear to be unaware that an increase has also been approved for a corresponding increase in the hackney tariff from 1 April 2023.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The proposed increases will enable the council to provide these services as close to cost neutral as possible.

4.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 Approval is given to the increases agreed on 14 December 2022 for taxi fees and charges from 1 April 2023.

	DR	IVERS	
Licence type	Current fee	Proposed fee for 2023/24	Notes
Application	228	250	
Renewal	228	250	
Application pack	71	80	
Knowledge test	55	60	
DBS disclosure	29	32	
	VE	HICLE	
New application - Private Hire	163	180	
New Application - Hackney Carriage	163	180	No new applications anticipated due to limit set or hackney licences
Vehicle change	42	45	
Vehicle detail change	37	40	
Hackney survey fee	10	10	bi-annual survey paid on licence renewal.
Renewal Private Hire	113	125	
Hackney Renewal	113	125	
Executive hire new application	72	80	
Executive hire renewal	66	70	
Transfer	15	17	
Change of details	15	17	
Duplicates	1	1	Reduction in fee
	OPE	RATORS	5
Fee	715	790	5 year licence
Plus per vehicle	32	35	
vehicle test	60	60	Not CBC income
Retest – within 10 days	15	15	Not CBC income
Retest – after 10 days	35	35	Not CBC income
Limousine test	25	25	Not CBC income

Licence Type	Current fee	Proposed fee for 2023/24	Notes
Site licence	473	520	
(3 yearly licence)	4/3	520	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	407	222	
Collectors licence	197	220	
(3 yearly licence)			
Addition of new site	236	260	
Change of site manager	14	15	
Add person to a site	77	85	
licence who has not			
previously been			
checked.			
Sexual Establishment Licence (Sex Shop)			
		<u> </u>	
Grant /renewal	1703	1,875	
Transfer	850	935	
Pleasure Boats			
New & renewal of boat licence	67	75	
Renewal of Skipper's licence	16	20	

2023-24: Comparison of proposed fees with other Derbyshire authorities.

At the time of writing it is not known if other authorities plan to increase their fees.

Authority	Private Hire / Hackney Drivers Licence 3 years	Hackney Vehicle Licence	Private Hire Vehicle Licence
Amber Valley	£223	£338 (renewal) – 1 year £409 (new) – 1 year	£293.50 (renewal) – 1 year £409 (new) – 1 year
Bolsover	£180	£ 92 – 6 months	£92 – 6 months
Chesterfield (Showing proposed fees)	£250	£180 new £125 renewal 6 monthly	£180 new, £125 renewal 6 monthly
Derby City	£289	£169 new & renewal – 12 months (Vehicles over 5 years old to be licensed every 6 months)	£83 new &renewal – 12 months (Vehicles over 5 years old to be licensed every 6 months)
Derbyshire Dales	£195	£362 – 12 months	£351 – 12 months
Erewash	£203	£325 – 12 months	£325 – 12 months
		£260 – 12 months for low emission vehicle	£260 – 12 months for low emission vehicle
High Peak	£225	£180 – 12 months	£180 - 12 months
North East	£180	£92 - 6 months	£92 – 6 months



FOR PUBLICATION

AGENDA ITEM

REVIEW OF LICENCE AND REGISTRATION FEES 2023/24

MEETING: APPEALS AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE

DATE: 14 DECEMBER 2022

REPORT BY: LICENSING MANAGER

WARDS: ALL

COMMUNITY

FORUMS:

ALL

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To seek approval for revised licence and registration fees for 2023/24.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

Approval is given to an increase in fees and charges as outlined in Appendix A from 1 April 2023.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In accordance with the Council's financial regulations it is necessary for all fees to be annually reviewed.
- 3.2 The services relate to the regulation, control and administration of the following areas:
 - Private Hire and Hackney Carriage fees;
 - Scrap Metal collectors and sites;
 - o Miscellaneous licensing fees.
- 3.3 Fees for the Licensing Act 2003 are set nationally and cannot be altered by the Council.
- 3.4 Fees under the Gambling Act and for sexual entertainment venues are considered by the Licensing committee.

- 3.5 Members are reminded that these are statutory services and as such are not subject to market forces. The Council has discretion about the setting of fees.
- 3.6 Staff costs are due to rise by 5.89% following an average pay rise of 4% backdated to April 2022. Another pay award is expected in 2023.
- 3.7 In addition, inflation is currently running at approximately 10% with associated increases in fuel.

4.0 **SCOPE**

- 4.1 An increase is required for all fees and charges in the current circumstances. A summary of proposed fees is provided at Appendix A, which sets out the fees and charges that were agreed in 2022/23 and the proposed increase; the figures have been rounded up or down to assist with cash handling.
- 4.2 Legal precedents dictate that licensing authorities should not make a profit from the delivery of these services. At present these budgets are showing a significant deficit of £18,950 once the recent pay award is included. This deficit is made up of both controllable and non-controllable expenditure, as the majority is a recharge from the licensing administration cost code.
- 4.3 The proposed increases will return the budget to a cost-neutral position.
- 4.3 The overwhelming majority of this budget comes from the taxi budget, where projected income is £216,490.

5.0 **EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS**

- 5.1 In December 2019 members decided to retain the limit of 110 hackney carriages. The committee also decided to commission another unmet demand survey in 2022, the survey to be funded by hackney carriage licence holders, for which licence holders are charged £10 at each six-month renewal.
- 5.2 The results of this years unmet demand survey are due to be considered by members in the near future.

5.3 Appendix B shows the comparison of taxi and private hire fees within Derbyshire but does not indicate what increase, if any, those authorities are proposing.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The proposed increases will enable the council to provide these services as close to cost neutral as possible.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Approval is given to an increase in fees and charges as outlined in Appendix A from 1 April 2023.

Further information on this report can be obtained from the licensing manager, Trevor Durham at trevor.durham@chesterfield.gov.uk

From:

Sent: 03 February 2023 20: To: Chesterfield Licensing

Subject: Taxi Fees

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. When in doubt, please contact the ICT Service Desk.

Hi, to whom it may concern,

I can't actually believe licencing are planning on increasing the fees. I'm sorry but it's absolutely ridiculous to even think of doing this. The taxi trade has really decreased since the last couple of years. The cost of living is extortionate at the moment. So many of us drivers are struggling to manage with everything and they're thinking to increase the fees. Even the current fees are above expensive at the moment and so difficult to afford. I believe the council are taking advantage of us taxi drivers in very harsh conditions and it's not fair at all. The council makes thousands and thousands off us taxi drivers on the fees already and they now want to make even more, it's pure greed and unacceptable I must say. Personally, I normally adapt to changes but this is not right and I have to say something. I object to this price increase as it's tough times and the council should be helping us if anything rather than causing us drivers more mental stress and pressure than we already have. If you decide to increase the fees then you will force many drivers to find other jobs because it will get to the point of us drivers not being able to afford all these proposed increases you have displayed. I hope this email reaches you and you make the right decision.

Kind regards,

Sent from my iPhone

From:	
Sent:	01 February 2023 11:37
То:	Chesterfield Licensing
Subject:	Re: Review of Licence Fees 2023/2024
you recognize the Hi there hope you're I am just concerned affected because the	about this increase the price,I get it as everything goes up but we the drivers are getting e fuel prices goes up and the renewal price goes up again but the taxi price is not going up so I other solution you have.
Sent from Yahoo Ma	<u>ıil on Android</u>
	23 at 9:29, Chesterfield Licensing sing@Chesterfield.gov.uk> wrote:
To all Private Hire/Ha	ackney Carriage Drivers, Vehicle Owners and Private Hire Operators
	er 2022, Chesterfield Borough Council determined that the fees charged in respect of the Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles, Operators and Drivers should be varied in accordance with table below.
Customer Service Ce must be received by	ments these must be made in writing to the Licensing Section, Environmental Services, entre, 85 New Square, Chesterfield, S40 IAH or emailed to licensing@chesterfield.gov.uk and the Licensing Section no later than the 23rd February 2023. If no objections are made the lill come into effect on 1 st April 2023.
Licence/	Current Fee
Registration/Service	
	DBS Fees
DBS Disclosure	£29 + DBS Fee
First Application	Drivers Licences/badge £228 (including £71 initial application fee)
DVLA Check	£228 (Including £71 Initial application fee) £15
Safeguarding (New	
applicants)	

1

From:

Renewal	£228 + £15 DVLA check

From:

Sent: 29 January 2023 19:33

To: Chesterfield Licensing

Subject: Proposed licensing fees

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. When in doubt, please contact the ICT Service Desk.

Hi, to whom it may concern,

I can't actually believe licencing are planning on increasing the fees. I'm sorry but it's absolutely ridiculous to even think of doing this. The taxi trade has really decreased since the last couple of years. The cost of living is extortionate at the moment. So many of us drivers are struggling to manage with everything and they're thinking to increase the fees. Even the current fees are above expensive at the moment and so difficult to afford. I believe the council are taking advantage of us taxi drivers in very harsh conditions and it's not fair at all. The council makes thousands and thousands off us taxi drivers on the fees already and they now want to make even more, it's pure greed and unacceptable I must say. Personally, I normally adapt to changes but this is not right and I have to say something. I object to this price increase as it's tough times and the council should be helping us if anything rather than causing us drivers more mental stress and pressure than we already have. If you decide to increase the fees then you will force many drivers to find other jobs because it will get to the point of us drivers not being able to afford all these proposed increases you have displayed. I hope this email reaches you and you make the right decision.

Kind regards,

Aamir Saddique

Get Outlook for Android

From:	
Sont.	28 Janu

Sent: 28 January 2023 11:51
To: Chesterfield Licensing

Subject: FW: RE: Review of Licence Fees 2023/2024

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. When in doubt, please contact the ICT Service Desk.

I would like to express my dissapointment with CBC in increasing the costs to drivers by such a large amount knowing that we are recovering from a pandemic and now are in a recession i would like the people responsible for the revision explain in full by way of a meeting with the Hackney & Private Hire drivers to show that the revision of costs are justified

Please could i get a reply ASAP

_		
E 1	0	m
П	U	ш.

Sent: 27 January 2023 11:47

To: Chesterfield Licensing

Subject: RE: Review of Licence Fees

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. When in doubt, please contact the ICT Service Desk.

Thank you for your email in regards to increase in charges.

Unfortunately I disagree with the increase in the charges, this is due to the following reasons

- 1. Neighbouring council charges are well below £280.00 for a yearly plate
- 2. Hackney carriage are capped at a cut off point.
- 3. In the past 3 years since beginning of pandemic we have not seen a increase in fares, were as Hackney Carriages have been given a fare increase.
- 4. Our costs are the same as Hackney Carriage licensing fees on vehicles, and we are earning less than them.
- 5. Even in the current situation and market the industry is not brilliant and subsequently our earnings are greatly reduced.

Taking the above information into account I strongly appose the increase in fee's.

Also speaking to numerous colleagues in the industry, they are feeling the same as myself with regards to the increase but are not able to oppose the increase as they don't want to be named. If at all possible would it be possible to allow people to anonymously object.

Thank you for your help and assistance in dealing with this delicate matter.

From:
Sent:
27 January 2023 10:59
To:
Chesterfield Licensing

Subject: regarding increasing badge fees

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. When in doubt, please contact the ICT Service Desk.

I believe council is not helping in the Difficult Situation us taxi drivers are right now After the last 2 years prices increase I don't know Why council need to increase prices again It is all taxi driver's being hit with the most expenses for example fuel price Insurance price in Obviously the renewal Increases for the vehicles renewals Where's the clearly operators are not increasing fare at the rate of other things are increasing. I object the increasing of price As it is difficult time for us And Council should be helping us Rather than putting more pressure on us with these increases.

Sent from my Galaxy

From: Sent: To: Subject:	27 January 2023 10:54 Chesterfield Licensing Re: Review of Licence Fees 2023/2024
	pinated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless ler and know the content is safe. When in doubt, please contact the ICT Service Desk.
Good morning licensing tea	m,
Thank you for your email in	regards to increase in charges.
Unfortunately I disagree wit	h the increase in the charges, this is due to the following reasons
1. Neighbouring council cha	rges are well below $\pounds 280.00$ for a yearly plate (ours are over $\pounds 350.00$)
2. Hackney carriage are cap	ped at a cut off point.
3. In the past 3 years since be have been given a fare increase.	reginning of pandemic we have not seen a increase in fares, were as Hackney Carriages ase.
4. Our costs are the same as	s Hackney Carriage licensing fees on vehicles, and we are earning less than them.
5. Even in the current situat reduced.	ion and market the industry is not brilliant and subsequently our earnings are greatly
Taking the above information	n into account I strongly appose the increase in fee's.
	colleagues in the industry, they are feeling the same as myself with regards to the oppose the increase as they don't want to be named. If at all possible would it be nonymously object.
Thank you for your help and	assistance in dealing with this delicate matter.
Look forward to hearing fror	n yourselves in regards to the above matter.
Kind regards	
Rahan Ghani	
On 26 Jan 2023 09:29, Chest	terfield Licensing <chesterfield.licensing@chesterfield.gov.uk> wrote:</chesterfield.licensing@chesterfield.gov.uk>
To all Private Hire/Hackney	Carriage Drivers, Vehicle Owners and Private Hire Operators

On the 14^{th} December 2022, Chesterfield Borough Council determined that the fees charged in respect of the licensing of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles, Operators and Drivers should be varied in accordance with proposed fees in the table below.

From:

Sent: 26 January 2023 15:13

To: Chesterfield Licensing

Subject: Price increase

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. When in doubt, please contact the ICT Service Desk.

I'm sending this email just in protest to the price increase on everything again! And for what as it isn't like most of them incur any overheads apart from paper or emails,the level of service we get is so poor even when we phone licencing nobody EVER! answers, its always answerphone,why not get rid of the woman who meets you at the door with her ipad asks your details then tells you to take a seat,what a totaly pointless job and it would save money,also I booked my taxi test online for end of March and had to pay £175 up front and it isn't for 2months yet its totaly discusting I'm not rockafella I'm a taxi driver living week to week that money could have been better spent until nearer the time discusted,clive eggleston.

From:

Sent: 26 January 2023 14:25
To: Chesterfield Licensing
Subject: Charge increase

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. When in doubt, please contact the ICT Service Desk.

How can you justify an increase on prices? We don't get any better service and nothing extra for our money. we can't get any extra for ourservice other than to stop outlonger to keep paying the council. Ridiculous charges that they make. I think you will find you are going to upset a lot more drivers

Trevor Durham		
From: Sent: To: Subject:	26 January 2023 14:10 Chesterfield Licensing License fees	
-	ated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe. When in doubt, please contact the ICT Service Desk.	
Dear licensing		
	about increased licensing fees. As I understand suppliers are increasing their costs and nore I can understand the price increase on those items.	
•	ch as badge renewals and vehicle test renewals these are surely admin based so I cant arranted to increase these as much as they have been.	
	shing to increase these charges there needs to be more value for money shown in som fered for the price we are paying.	е
For instance making more sure we get a test date.	vehicle test dates available as at the moment we have to book well in advance to make	;
• .	d desk enquiries easier by extending opening hours and making more people available t when we call we have to leave a message to be called back as no one answers.	0
•	uggling with increased costs on fuel, consumables and the general cost of living, I do on there will be more drivers leaving the profession and less wanting to join as costs sp	ira
lf you wish to discuss plea	se feel free to give me a call.	
Regards		

Daniel stone Everyday travel

Sent from my iPhone

Knowledge Test

Upgrade

From:	
Sent:	26 January 2023 10:44
То:	Chesterfield Licensing
Subject:	Re: Review of Licence Fees 2023/2024
_	pinated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless ler and know the content is safe. When in doubt, please contact the ICT Service Desk.
Also the extortionate price price is beyond me	they charge for the same mat you can acquire at any other garage at a fraction of the
	colin bradfield, <a h<="" td="">
On Thu, 26 Jan 2023, 09:3	0 Chesterfield Licensing, <chesterfield.licensing@chesterfield.gov.uk> wrote:</chesterfield.licensing@chesterfield.gov.uk>
To all Private Hire/Hackne	ey Carriage Drivers, Vehicle Owners and Private Hire Operators
	22, Chesterfield Borough Council determined that the fees charged in respect of the iage and Private Hire Vehicles, Operators and Drivers should be varied in accordance with below.
Customer Service Centre, must be received by the L	s these must be made in writing to the Licensing Section, Environmental Services, 85 New Square, Chesterfield, S40 1AH or emailed to <u>licensing@chesterfield.gov.uk</u> and icensing Section no later than the 23rd February 2023 . If no objections are made the me into effect on 1 st April 2023.
Licence/	Current Fee
Registration/Service	Suiton 100
	DBS Fees
DBS Disclosure	£29 + DBS Fee
Ethat Annalis et	Drivers Licences/badge
First Application	£228 (including £71 initial application fee)
DVLA Check Safeguarding (New	£15
applicants)	
Renewal	£228 + £15 DV/I A check

£55

£31

Replacement Badge

Card Replacement Card

> Holder Lanyard

TTOVOT Barriani	
From:	
Sent:	26 January 2023 10:33
To:	Chesterfield Licensing
Subject:	Re: Review of Licence Fees 2023/2024
,	
• 4	
	ail originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless sender and know the content is safe. When in doubt, please contact the ICT Service Desk.
I have an objection as	s they have gone up at the test centre twice in the last 6 months
On Thu, 26 Jan 2023,	09:30 Chesterfield Licensing, chesterfield.Licensing@chesterfield.gov.uk wrote:
To all Private Hire/H	ackney Carriage Drivers, Vehicle Owners and Private Hire Operators
	er 2022, Chesterfield Borough Council determined that the fees charged in respect of the Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles, Operators and Drivers should be varied in accordance with table below.
Customer Service Comust be received by	ments these must be made in writing to the Licensing Section, Environmental Services, entre, 85 New Square, Chesterfield, S40 IAH or emailed to <u>licensing@chesterfield.gov.uk</u> and the Licensing Section no later than the 23 rd February 2023 . If no objections are made the ill come into effect on 1 st April 2023.
lia-man/	
Licence/ Registration/Service	Current Fee
1 togioti dilotti/ Col vico	DBS Fees
DBS Disclosure	£29 + DBS Fee
	Drivers Licences/badge
First Application	£228 (including £71 initial application fee)
DVLA Check	£15
Safeguarding (New applicants)	
Renewal	£228 + £15 DVLA check
Knowledge Test	£55
Upgrade	£31

£4

£4

£1

From:

Sent: 27 January 2023 11:31 **To:** Chesterfield Licensing

Subject: Unfair increase

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. When in doubt, please contact the ICT Service Desk.

This is outrage how can u offer this when we are already struggling with the cost of living if anything its expensive as it is instead of helping u are increasing the price how are you expecting new driver to apply with these prices let alone a driver renewing I disapprove of this offer as are many other driver's we all are not happy with thise going forward hopefully you will be hearing from them aswell as you have from me