

# North Lanarkshire Council

## Report

### Finance & Resources Committee

X approval  noting

Ref PG/AT

Date 18/09/19

### Licensing – Proposed Increase in Application Fees

**From** Archie Aitken, Head of Legal and Democratic Solutions

**Email** aitkena@northlan.gov.uk

**Telephone** 01698 302295

#### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to advise Committee that the fees for private hire applications are due to be reviewed. Committee decided on 13 March 2019 that all applicants for private hire driver licences should be required to pass a knowledge test.

Historically there has been a differential between the fee charged for the grant of a new taxi driver licence and for the grant of a new private hire driver licence. The higher figure for the grant of a taxi driver licence reflected the additional administrative work required of licensing staff in respect of the required knowledge test in relation to applications for taxi driver licences. The current fee for an application for a taxi driver licence is £175 and the current fee for an application for a private hire driver licence is £160. The differential in the fees charged reflected more work involved in relation to the processing of applications for taxi driver licences due to the additional requirement in relation to the knowledge test.

Since the administrative work involved in processing taxi driver licence applications and private hire driver licence applications is now equivalent, it is appropriate that the same application fee should be charged.

#### Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee authorise the Head of Legal & Democratic Solutions to stipulate that, from 2 October 2019, the fee the Council charges for an application for a private hire driver licence be increased from £160 to £175 (which is the fee currently charged in respect of applications for taxi driver licences).

#### The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority: Improve economic opportunities and outcomes

Ambition statement: Ensure the highest standards of public protection

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Section 12 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 requires the Council, as licensing authority, to charge such fees in respect of taxi and private hire licences and applications for such licences and to seek to ensure that the total amount of such fees is sufficient to meet the expenses incurred in carrying out its functions in relation to such licences.
- 

## **2. Report**

- 2.1 The current fees in relation to applications for taxi driver and private hire driver licences are as detailed above.
- 

## **3. Equality and Diversity**

- 3.1 Fairer Scotland Duty  
The Fairer Scotland Duty is not applicable to the content of this report.
- 3.2 Equality Impact Assessment  
No Equality Impact Assessment is required.
- 

## **4. Implications**

- 4.1 Financial Impact  
There will be no significant financial impact in relation to the Council overall. It is estimated that the change in fees will allow the Council to meet the cost of the additional work involved.
- 4.2 HR/Policy/Legislative Impact  
None
- 4.3 Environmental Impact  
None
- 4.4 Risk Impact  
None
- 

## **5. Measures of success**

- 5.1 Improving economic opportunities and outcome.
- 

## **6. Supporting documents**

- 6.1 None



**Head of Legal & Democratic Solutions**