

Subject: On application for the grant or renewal of a hackney carriage driver's licence, the applicant should be able, for a nominal fee, to obtain a private hire drivers licence.

Status: For Publication.

Report to: Licensing Committee **Date:** 17th October 2006

Section Head: Head of Legal & Democratic Services **Report Author:** Susan Chadwick

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council **Key Decision:** No

APPLICANT : KENYON'S TAXIS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the request by Kenyon's Taxis, Haslingden, that only a nominal fee is charged for the grant of a private hire driver's licence when there is an application at the same time for the grant or renewal of a hackney carriage driver's licence.
- 1.2 To request that Committee consider this application.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. It is recommended that the application is rejected.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. At present, there are 239 hackney carriage drivers and 10 private hire drivers licensed by this Authority. There is a fee of £150 for the grant of either licence, which last for 3 years, and in addition, the driver must obtain a Criminal Record Bureau check and a completed medical questionnaire from his own General Practitioner. New drivers must also pass a driving test conducted by the Driving Standards Agency.
- 3.2 The provision of fees is governed by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, which does not allow the Licensing Authority to charge whatever it likes but provides that the cost of a licence has to be related to the cost of the licensing scheme itself. In essence, the Act forbids licensing authorities making a profit but does not expect them to subsidise taxi business with monies from council tax revenues.
- 3.3. The Act recognises that it is clearly impossible to assess the administration work involved in each application, which may vary enormously, and so it is the total income and expenditure on administration costs that is important.

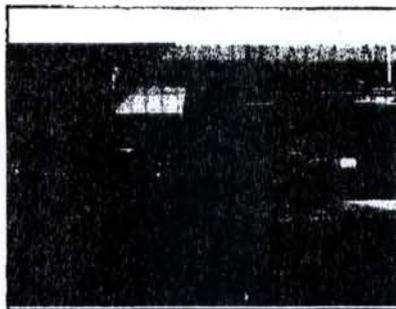
3.4 This application, if granted, would set a precedent that fees should be based on the amount of work involved in dealing with each application. It would therefore follow that some applicants should be charged well in excess of the current charges.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

4.1. The Licensing Authority must comply with legislation about fees and charges but is able to set such fees as to enable it to recover part or the whole of costs associated with the grant and renewal of driver licences. In addition, the Authority should not use monies from council revenues in such a way that would favour private business.

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Appendices	
Document	Place of Inspection
Letter from Kenyons Taxis	Appendix A



KENYONS TAXIS

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11/09/06

I WISH TO REQUEST THE INTRODUCTION OF A KNOWLEDGE TEST FOR HACKNEY AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS TO BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT LICENSING MEETING . I AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC ABOUT DRIVERS NOT KNOWING WHERE THEY ARE GOING .

ALSO I WOULD LIKE TO BE DISCUSSED THAT ON THE PURCHASE OF A HACKNEY CARRAIGE BADGE THAT THE DRIVERS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A PRIVATE HIRE BADGE TO RUN CONCURRENTLEY.FOR A SMALL FEE FOR EXTRA ADMINISTRATION. MY REASONS FOR THIS IS AS A HACKNEY CARRAIGE OPERATOR I WOULD BE ABLE TO SPLIT MY FLEET UP TO HACKNEY AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES AND ESPECIALLY AT WEEKEND WHEN WE GET A BIG INFLUX OF DRIVERS AND VEHICLES FROM OUT OF THIS AREA BUT LICENSED BY ROSSENDALE IT WOULD HELP TO ELEVATE THE OVER LOADING OF THE RANKS.

Yours truly,

A Kenyon

MRS A KENYON

ROSENDALE
LICENSING UNIT
RECEIVED

11 SEP 2006