Objections to Fees & Charges Increase

| Daniel Bolton | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Nikki Carmichael | |
| Kevin Cullen | |
| Samantha Edwards | |
| Stacey Lock with signatures | |
| Scott McGee | |
| Stacey McLaren Nee Lock | |
| Nigel Page | |
| Sue Rayden with signatures | |
| Michael Sutton | |
| Manos Tzanoudakis | |
| Alex Wigg | |
| Deam Wooltorton | |
| Oruc Yediayli | |

From:

Daniel Bolton <

Sent:

02 February 2024 13:05

To:

Licensing

Subject:

Licensing Increases

Categories:

TB

Dear Licensing Department

I am very disappointed and shocked that East Suffolk Council are proposing an increase to vehicle licenses and a proposing to raise an operator's license fee.

I am unsure if East Suffolk Council and the licensing department are aware of the hardship we have encountered as a trade over the last 4 years as a result of covid.

Although this was a few years ago now we are still recovering from this as well as being hit with further issues affecting the finances to maintain and sustain being a driver. Following this the cost of fossil fuels soared at a time when we were trying to recover, meaning any resources of funds saved were used or we were running at cost. The cost of living affects our trade in many ways and has done on a daily basis. It means customers have fewer financial resources for taxis affecting the work we receive. We have seen a decrease in people using the hospitality trade, corporate workers no longer using taxis as they are now working from home and many people using taxis less. Not only this it means business overheads have drastically increased. Drivers regardless of the recent increase to hackney tariffs are not any better off than pre covid as costs are much higher this means It has not impacted our ability to make a profit. In the last 12 months car insurances have risen by 29%, interest rates that affects vehicle purchases have risen by 5%, and this is without considering any other running costs.

Although we are discussing a price increase for vehicle licenses these vehicles belong to drivers and therefore is an increase to the driver. In 2022 a driver now has the additional cost of the safeguarding course which is another £160.00 for new drivers and refresher course £45.00. The hours this course is held is not always obtainable and can cause disruption to both work life and personal life. AS a licensed driver the costs to sustain a license and vehicle are a high burden it currently costs below:

Driver Licence fee £270.00 every 3 years

Dbs £38.00

Vehicle Licence fee £312.00 (private hire) £356.00 (hackney carriage) every year

Safeguarding college course - £45.00

Driver medical-£90-£150.00

Taxi Mechanicals - £140.00 yearly

As you can see the above is already exceedingly a high cost before you even take into consideration and other overheads that are required before even taking a fare paying customer.

Having reviewed the licensing fees nationwide we are already one of the highest charging authorities for these fees. With no other benefits or additions compared to other authorities even neighbouring authorities. For example, great Yarmouth Licensing are 39% cheaper than East Suffolk providing a like by like service.

Not only this we are now facing the further costs of an additional £40.00 per year to vehicles from April 2024, due the local ESSL testing station no longer offering to a MOT as part of our vehicle mechanical tests.

It was only in September 2023 the East Suffolk Scrutiny meeting that was held had discussed such issues explained above. There was an outstanding declaration that the financial burdens to drivers were very high, and something must be done to help. This was to be discussed further to ensure that these costs can be kept down to help drivers and businesses. I have attached the minute notes below.

 There being no further questions, the Chair opened up debate and the Committee suggested recommendations relating to streamlining processes, particularly the 2-day training course; investigating ways to alleviate the financial burden for applicants; and increasing enforcement capacity.

That the Scrutiny Committee finalise the recommendations outside of the meeting via email.

CLERK'S NOTE: The Scrutiny Committee subsequently agreed the following resolution by email:

 Consider ways to alleviate the financial burden for drivers applying for a Licence which could include providing grants, loan pay back schemes or staggering payments etc.

Unfortunately, with a raise in vehicle and operating licence fees it will once again push the trade to a point that I am unsure of sustainability. Many businesses within the hospitality industry are having to close as we have all seen locally to due financial issues, and it no longer being financially viable. We as a trade are not alone in this battle too. With a further raise to fees it will make working within the trade less viable and even harder to be able to make a living.

I would like to hope the licensing department and East Suffolk Council understand the financial burdens we are all having to continue to operate and would support us to ensure sustainability for drivers and the trade in whole. Therefore, I strongly oppose an increase to both vehicle license fees and operator's license fees.

With all the above in mind I would be applying for the reasons why as a licensing authority why your costs are higher than others locally never mind nationally. My suggestion would be you reduce your operating costs and apply this saving to the trade accordingly We would like to apply for a reduction to the licence fees currently set. I suggest that operating costs are reduced to aid this, or it is investigated why other local authorities can achieve this level of service whilst offering a lower fee. A helpful guide to us would be the last 5 years accounts for taxi and private hire licensing for East Suffolk Council, if you could supply these, I would be grateful.

Regards

Dans Pre-Booked Cars

From:

Nikki Carmichael

Sent:

15 February 2024 12:44

To:

Licensing

Subject:

Increase in licensing fees

Categories:

TB

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- Safeguarding college course £45.00
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Kind Regards Nikki Carmichael Sent from my iPhone

From:

Kev Cullen <

Sent:

15 February 2024 09:31

To:

Licensing

Subject:

My opposal to the new taxi tariff

Categories:

TB

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Kind regards, Kevin Cullen

Somantha Edwards

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Stacey Lock

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Not only this we are now facing the further costs of an additional £40.00 per year to vehicles from April 2024, due the local ESSL testing station no longer offering to a MOT as part of our vehicle mechanical tests, as well as having difficulty booking a test due to the limited workforce decreasing slot available.

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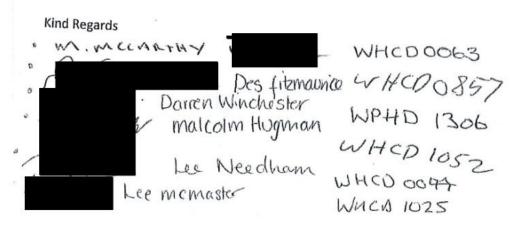
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M. GRAHAM WHED 1018 A. Rucks WH C BOOSS

Scott Clements WMPD 13Ub.
GIAR Phillip TV PHISTES

Martin Lock WticDio24

Scott Mcgee

Teresa Bailey

From:

Nikki Carmichael -

Sent:

15 February 2024 12:45

To:

Licensing

Subject:

Proposed licence fees

Categories:

TB

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Kind Regards Scott Mcgee Sent from my iPhone



Five One Taxis LTD
Unit 8
Harbour Road Ind Est
Oulton Broad
Lowestoft
Suffolk
NR32 3LZ

Tel: (01502) 515151 E-Mail: stacey.lock@515151.co.uk

Dear Licensing Department

I am very surprised to see a proposal for an increase to vehicle licenses and a proposal to raise an operator's license.

As the licensing department will be aware the taxi and private hire trade was hit severely with the repercussions from covid. Although this was a few years ago now we are still recovering from this, and the trade is slowly starting to recover. More recent to this we have seen worldwide affects massively affect our trade with the cost of fuel prices rocketing and recovering and the cost-of-living crisis. The cost of living affects our trade in many ways. It means customers have fewer financial resources for taxis affecting the work we receive. Not only this it means business overheads have drastically increased. Drivers regardless of the recent increase to hackney tariffs are not any better off than pre covid as costs are much higher. In the last 12 months car insurances have risen by 29%, interest rates that affects vehicle purchases have risen by 5%, and this is without considering any other running costs.

Although we are discussing a price increase for vehicle licenses these vehicles belong to drivers and therefore is an increase to the driver. In 2022 a driver now has the additional cost of the safeguarding course which is another £160.00. For a driver to get driving onto the road the below costs are required, this is a massive amount of financial burden to gather when trying to become a taxi driver and then sustaining once in the trade.

- Driver Licence fee £487.00
- Vehicle Licence fee £312.00 (private hire) £356.00 (hackney carriage)
- Safeguarding college course £160.00
- Driver medical-£90-£150.00
- Driving Assessment approx. £60
- Taxi Mechanicals £140.00

As you can see the above is already exceeding £1000.00 before you even enter the trade. Having reviewed the licensing fees nationwide we are already one of the highest charging authorities for these fees. With no other benefits or additions compared to other authorities even neighbouring authorities. For example, great Yarmouth Licensing are 39% cheaper than East Suffolk providing a like by like service. Not only this we are now facing the further costs of an additional £40.00 per year to vehicles from April 2024, due the local ESSL testing station no longer offering to a MOT as part of our vehicle mechanical tests.

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Unfortunately, with a raise in vehicle and operating licence fees it will once again push the trade to a point that I am unsure of sustainability. Many businesses within the hospitality industry are having to close as we have all seen locally to due financial issues, and it no longer being financially viable. We as a trade are not alone in this battle too. With raising fees, I expect to see a further downfall to the trade with drivers not renewing licenses or vehicle licenses due to the cost being too high and no longer viable and exiting the trade. Business running costs may become too high to continue. I would like to hope the licensing department and East Suffolk Council understand the financial burdens we are all having to continue to operate and would support us to ensure sustainability for drivers and the trade in whole. Therefore, I strongly oppose an increase to both vehicle license fees and operator's license fees.

With all the above in mind I would be applying for the reasons why as a licensing authority why your costs are higher than others locally never mind nationally. My suggestion would be you reduce your operating costs and apply this saving to the trade accordingly We would like to apply for a reduction to the licence fees currently set. I suggest that operating costs are reduced to aid this, or it is investigated why other local authorities can achieve this level of service whilst offering a lower fee. A helpful guide to us would be the last 5 years accounts for taxi and private hire licensing for East Suffolk Council, if you could supply these, I would be grateful.

Yous Sincerely Mrs Stacey McLaren Nee Lock

Managing Director

From:

nigel.page <

Sent:

11 February 2024 21:26

To:

Licensing

Subject:

Proposed taxi increases in hackney and private hire plates

Categories:

TB

Dear taxi licensing

I hereby oppose the proposed idea to implement a cost for a mot certificate and introduction of a fee for retest I hereby oppose the rise in the price of private hire and hackney licenses

The idea to introduce a fee for the mot turns up a load issues ,surely the mechanical certificate is above a normal mot anyway ,but if we decide to not pay for the mot. First can we get vehicle taxes with no mot .will it flag up to police as no mot which it did before introduction of the mot certificate

I have alot of issues to do with our business which has had an almighty battle to survive since covid and the huge hike in fuel prices

25% of our business ,didnt return after covid ,as hackney we have only had 2 rises in entire time since the amalgamation of 2 areas ,we had a whole year of ,high fuel before we could get last rise which was already eroded. The hospitality trade as a whole has had a battering less people going out the ,cost of living crisis .

The trade we rely on dealing with the disabled ,has changed totally with the homes shortstaffed constantly cancelling ,which is at a all time high at a huge loss cost to our business

Constant need to keep upping the costs introducing courses has to be met by increase to the fares other wise the business ,is not sustainable garage costs alone is up 29% this year alone Kind regards nigel page harbour cabs

Sent from my Galaxy

Sue Rayder

Dear Licensing Department

I am very disappointed and shocked that East Suffolk Council are proposing an increase to vehicle licenses and a proposing to raise an operator's license fee.

I am unsure if East Suffolk Council and the licensing department are aware of the hardship we have encountered as a trade over the last 4 years as a result of covid.

Although this was a few years ago now we are still recovering from this as well as being hit with further issues affecting the finances to maintain and sustain being a driver. Following this the cost of fossil fuels soared at a time when we were trying to recover, meaning any resources of funds saved were used or we were running at cost.

The cost of living affects our trade in many ways and has done on a daily basis. It means customers have fewer financial resources for taxis affecting the work we receive. We have seen a decrease in people using the hospitality trade, corporate workers no longer using taxis as they are now working from home and many people using taxis less. Not only this it means business overheads have drastically increased. Drivers regardless of the recent increase to hackney tariffs are not any better off than pre covid as costs are much higher this means It has not impacted our ability to make a profit. In the last 12 months car insurances have risen by 29%, interest rates that affects vehicle purchases have risen by 5%, and this is without considering any other running costs.

Although we are discussing a price increase for vehicle licenses these vehicles belong to drivers and therefore is an increase to the driver. In 2022 a driver now has the additional cost of the safeguarding course which is another £160.00 for new drivers and refresher course £45.00. The hours this course is held is not always obtainable and can cause disruption to both work life and personal life. AS a licensed driver the costs to sustain a license and vehicle are a high burden it currently costs below:

- Driver Licence fee £270.00 every 3 years
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As you can see the above is already exceedingly a high cost before you even take into consideration and other overheads that are required before even taking a fare paying customer. Having reviewed the licensing fees nationwide we are already one of the highest charging authorities for these fees. With no other benefits or additions compared to other authorities even neighbouring authorities. For example, great Yarmouth Licensing are 39% cheaper than East Suffolk providing a like by like service.

Not only this we are now facing the further costs of an additional £40.00 per year to vehicles from April 2024, due the local ESSL testing station no longer offering to a MOT as part of our vehicle mechanical tests.

It was only in September 2023 the East Suffolk Scrutiny meeting that was held had discussed such issues explained above. There was an outstanding declaration that the financial burdens to drivers were very high, and something must be done to help. This was to be discussed further to ensure that these costs can be kept down to help drivers and businesses. I have attached the minute notes below.

 There being no further questions, the Chair opened up debate and the Committee suggested recommendations relating to streamlining processes, particularly the 2-day training course; investigating ways to alleviate the financial burden for applicants; and increasing enforcement capacity.

That the Scrutiny Committee finalise the recommendations outside of the meeting via email.

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| J. DRAPBE - WHED 0903. STEVE LEWIS WHED 443 | 12,12,24 |
|--|----------------|
| MUSTAFA E. IBISLER 867 - DAVID BRANSON WHCO 276 | 12.2.24 |
| Joseph Fallon WPHD 1158 | 12.2.24 |
| RYAN GODBOLD WHEDO 119 GNAHAM GUY WHENO 473 | 12/2/24 |
| CHAIS SAMPSON WHODO 612 LEE PULLING WPHD1307 | 13/2/24 |
| Ton Hooke WPH01312 | 13.2.124 |
| BOB FALLON NHCDOSK9 Keith EDWARD WPHP1150 David Cain WHCDOSS | 0 13/2/24 |
| Alex Wigg WHED 107 | |
| Glenn Anderson WPHD 1341 | 13/2/24. |
| Samantha Edwards WP | HD1199 13/2/24 |
| Acras Wh. Hock. WPHDIS | 287. 13/2/24 |

13/2/24 S DYKE WPHD1221 Y. ATALAY. WHCD. 1028. 13.224. 13/2/24, J. HART WPHDIZZY MiAALDERSON WPHO 1114 13/2/24 13. 2. 24 D. T. SHKMENORMA N6401018 wphd1122 14.2.24 R. Govid D. HARVEY WHCD 882 14.2.24 1年2.24、 J. FALLON 8P20 0 24W

| Teresa Bailey | |
|--|--|
| From: Sent: To: Subject: | Michael Sutton 13 February 2024 14:11 Licensing Re: Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Fees 2024 and Survey |
| Categories: | ТВ |
| | and still don't get priority at the testing station over standard MOT test we are very to get a new car tested which is totally unacceptable |
| Sent from Gmail Mobile | |
| On Thu, 8 Feb 2024 at 17:20, Lice | ensing < licensing@eastsuffolk.gov.uk > wrote: |
| Good afternoon | |
| I understand some of you ma possibility that it might be in | y not have received our email dated 22 January 2024. Could there be a your spam or junk emails? |
| I have attached the contents second time: | of the email again below and I apologise if you are now receiving this for a |
| | |
| | ware that the attached public notice was published in the East Anglian Daily eccles Journal on Friday 19 January 2024. |
| Also, we have been asked by survey they are conducting. | Suffolk County Council if we could forward to all licensed drivers, details of a Please see details below: |
| A chance to win a £100 s on electric vehicles! | hopping voucher - Suffolk County Council would like your views |

views from the taxi and private hire trade regarding the transition to electric vehicles (EVs) in Suffolk. The data collected will help to determine the best approach for Suffolk Councils to support the taxi and private hire trade in making the transition from internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles to EVs.

Suffolk County Council, working collaboratively with the Districts and Borough, is looking to gather feedback and

The survey will take approximately 7 minutes to complete, and all answers are anonymous. After completing the survey, you can choose to be entered into a prize draw to win a £100 One4all high-street shopping voucher to spend on any items of your choice. The survey will close at **5pm on Friday 23**rd **February 2024**, and the winner will be selected at random and contacted by Suffolk County Council by the end of February 2024.

Survey: To access the survey, please click here.

For more information or if you have any questions, please email: evcharging@suffolk.gov.uk



Regards

Licensing Team

East Suffolk Council

01394 444802

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

www.eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk

From:

manos tzanoudakis

Sent:

09 February 2024 15:20

To:

Licensing

Subject:

Fw: Proposition of changes in licensing fees for private hire and hackney carriage.

Categories:

TB

From: manos tzanoudakis <

Sent: 09 February 2024 3:18 PM

To: democraticservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk <democraticservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk> **Subject:** Proposition of changes in licensing fees for private hire and hackney carriage.

Dear Mr Bing

I am writing to you, regarding your proposal for the increase of the fees, for the taxi and private hire industry.

I oppose strongly any price increases, as it becomes more and more difficult for people like myself to make a living by doing this job.

I know that the cost of living has gone up sharply during the past year, while fares haven't gone up not even near in line with inflation. I also realise that, especially lately, competition has gone up a lot in the area, as the big Ipswich companies have decided to start operating in the East Suffolk area, with your blessings, taking advantage of a possible law loophole. As a result of that competition, our income has been shrank signifficaly, and, combined with the fees increase makes our income even less. I am not asking for the fees to be lower this year, but bearing in mind, the sharp increase in the number of drivers, your income from our trade has gone up an awful lot even by not increasing the fees.

To sum up.

Please, think again, before you force more drivers to end up unemployed and joining the queue to the benefits.

Awaiting your thoughts on my concerns

Yours faithfully

Emmanouil Tzanoudakis

Alex wigg

Dear Licensing Department

I am very disappointed and shocked that East Suffolk Council are proposing an increase to vehicle licenses and a proposing to raise an operator's license fee.

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From:

DEAN WOOLTORTON 4

Sent:

05 February 2024 12:49

To:

Licensing

Subject:

new price increases

Categories:

TB

Licensing team,

i dont usually respond or make any complaints about price increases but i feel that the increases are higher than inflation if you include the new mot charge , over the last several years we have had covid to deal with, and many price increases with cost of repairs maintenance of taxi , also there has been a big increase is the cost of insurance prices , east suffolk has one of the highest costs for taxi vehicles in the area if anything should be done prices should be frozen or reduced , not that this email will make any difference to your final decision.

Kind regards Dean wooltorton

12.02.2024

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I would like to hope the licensing department and East Suffolk Council understand the financial burdens we are all having to continue to operate and would support us to ensure sustainability for drivers and the trade in whole. Therefore, I strongly oppose an increase to both vehicle license fees and operator's license fees.

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Kind Regards