

Transport & Vehicle Maintenance Proposed Fees & Charges 2025/26

Date of Issue:	7 January 2025
Date of Decision:	15 January 2025
Report to:	Cabinet Member - Cleansing and Street Scene
Report of:	Assistant Director - Operational In-House Services
Portfolio:	Cleansing and Street Scene
Wards affected:	All Wards
Is this a key decision:	No
Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt/confidential report:	No

Summary:

Transport & Vehicle Maintenance fees and charges for 2025/26 are set out in the report and are proposed for adoption and enactment from 1st April 2025.

Recommendation:

That Cabinet Member approves the proposed uplift in fees and charges for 2025/26 for the Transport & Vehicle Maintenance Service as described within this report and associated appendix.

1. The Rationale and Evidence for the Recommendations

Since commencing its external services to the public such as MOT, Tachograph Calibration and Taxi Compliance tests, the Transport and Vehicle Maintenance Department charges have remained relatively low.

There is a legal limit imposed for MOT's, the charge is variable by class of vehicle and is capped by Government, this is currently £54.85 for class 4 vehicles such as cars.

Sefton Council increased a number of its charges for external services in 2023/24 in keeping with inflation. The service currently charges £40 for a class 4 MOT test. The test fee remains one of the most competitive in local area.

The service also provide further external services such as Tachograph Calibration, Taxi Compliance Testing and Brake Testing.

The service combined its Taxi MOT and Compliance Tests in 2023 and increased the charge overall to £60.

Tachograph Calibrations charges were also increased in 2023 to £90+VAT.

Charges for external labour rates were also increased from £45 per hour to £60 per hour.

It is important to note that Sefton Council's charges for external services within the Vehicle Maintenance Department remain extremely competitive within the industry. Comparative costs show that external labour rates are in excess of the Council's current charge per hour.

Comparators taken from similar establishments within the local and City Region are detailed below:

Average cost per event:

Class 4 MOT - £45

Taxi Compliance Test - £65

Tachograph Calibration - £168 + VAT

Labour Rate - *£90

**External labour rates are based on HGV services such as Tachographs, PMI's and services not grey fleet.*

2. Proposal

To ensure the service operates a full cost recovery model of its external charges it is necessary to increase the below service charge to provide a closer comparative cost in keeping with the local market industry.

The proposal is to increase the following service charges:

Tachograph Calibration - £110+VAT = £130

This equates to a 20% increase of the net cost, currently £90 per calibration.

The proposed increase would ensure the service remains competitive whilst considering the likely impact on local businesses and residents.

It also takes into account the current financial pressure the authority faces.

3. Financial Implications

There are no costs associated with this report, but fees and charges form a key part of the overall Council budget. Income that is generated will contribute towards income targets and the associated costs of running the service. There are no direct capital costs associated with the recommendations in this report.

4. Legal Implications

None

5. Corporate Risk Implications

None

6. Staffing HR Implications

None

7. Conclusion

To ensure that full cost recovery is implemented of commercially focussed services.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

Equality Implications: There are no equality implications
Impact on Children and Young People: N/A
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will have a neutral impact.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Services and Commercial (FD.7854/24.....) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5954/24.....) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

None

Implementation Date for the Decision :

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Cabinet Member decision.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1