

TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING: FEES AND CHARGES

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Purpose

- 1.1 For Licensing Committee to agree the taxi and private hire licensing fees and charges and authorise the Group Manager- Regulatory Services to carry out the formal consultation.

2 Recommendations/for decision

- 2.1 That the taxi and private hire licensing fees set out in Appendix 1 of this report be approved with effect from the 1 April 2018; and
- 2.2 The Group Manager – Regulatory Services be authorised to carry out the statutory consultation.

3 Supporting information

- 3.1 Attached as Appendix 1 to this report is another report complete with appendices relating to the setting of fees and charges for taxi and private hire licences. The report is comprehensive and self-explanatory and went before the Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee on the 19 December 2017. As this report has been drafted prior to Scrutiny Committee, officers will update Members of Licensing Committee of any significant comments or changes and answer any questions arising from the report itself.
- 3.2 On the basis that the proposed fees have been agreed by the Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee, Members of Licensing Committee are asked to approve them with effect from the 1 April 2018.
- 3.3 Although less onerous in respect to driver licence fees, the statutory implementation process for operator and vehicle fees, as set out in Section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 are prescribed and set out in paragraph 3.4. In the interests of fairness and transparency it is intended to apply the same process to driver licence fees, even though it is not entirely necessary.
- 3.4 The implementation process is as follows:
 1. A notice must be published in a local newspaper stating the proposed fees.
 2. This must specify a date, not less than 28 days from the date on which the notice is first published. That date has 2 functions:
 - a) It is the date by which any objections must be lodged; and
 - b) It is the date on which the revised fees will come into effect if (i) no objections are received; or (ii) any objections received have been withdrawn.
 3. If objections are received and are not withdrawn the Council must consider the objections. In the light of these objections the Council then sets a second date which cannot be more than 2 months after the first date specified when the new fees come into force.
- 3.5 It is therefore recommended that Members authorise the Group Manager – Regulatory Services to carry out the statutory consultation as set out in paragraph 3.4. If objections are received and not withdrawn Licensing Committee in May will consider them and agree the final fees with or without

modification. If an alteration is required after consideration, the fees can be increased as well as decreased.

4 Options considered

4.1 None

5 Reasons for Recommendation

5.1 To ensure that the Council's fees and charges in respect to taxis and private hire are fair and reasonable and in accordance with the law.

6 Resource implications

6.1 Any costs arising from this review are included within the proposed fees.

Contact Officer

Background Documents

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Open for business: LGA guidance on locally set licence fees