

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6**

**TITLE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 ("1976 ACT") HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE FEES**

Committee: Licensing Committee

Date: 20 January 2016

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[Q169]

1.0 ISSUE

- 1.1 To consider objections to the proposed taxi and private hire fees agreed by the Licensing Committee on 18 November 2015.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 That Members agree to implement the proposed Taxi and Private hire fees as advertised.
- 2.2 That Members approve the proposed fees to have immediate effect.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting on 18 November 2015, Members of the Licensing Committee considered a detailed report on licensing fees and resolved to increase the fees associated with taxi and private hire licensing. Members authorised Officers to carry out the consultation process required by section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 ("the 1976 Act"), and resolved to widen the scope of the consultation to include driver and associated fees where consultation is not legally required.
- 3.2 Members also resolved to increase the fees for drivers to the proposed figures with immediate effect, subject to refunds being given if the proposed fees were not adopted following the consultation period.
- 3.3 The proposed fees agreed by Members on 18 November 2015, and the existing fees are detailed below:

Licence Type	Existing Fee	Proposed Fee
<b>Joint driver licences</b>		
1 year joint driver licence – new	£120.00	£133.00
1 year joint driver licence – renewal	£54.00	£77.00
3 year joint driver licence – new	£204.00	£354.00
3 year joint driver licence – renewal	£146.00	£298.00
<b>Private Hire vehicle licences</b>		
Private hire vehicle licence – new	£150.00	£192.00

Private hire vehicle licence – renewal	£150.00	£192.00
Private hire vehicle licence – variation	N/A	£35.00
Private hire vehicle licence – transfer	£35.00	£35.00
<b>Hackney Carriage vehicle licences</b>		
Hackney carriage vehicle licence – new	£150.00	£192.00
Hackney carriage vehicle licence – renewal	£150.00	£192.00
Hackney carriage vehicle licence – variation	N/A	£35.00
Hackney carriage vehicle licence – transfer	£35.00	£25.00
<b>Private Hire operator licences</b>		
1 year operator licence – new and renewal		
1 vehicle	£90.00	£102.00
2 to 5 vehicles	£90.00	£112.00
6 to 10 vehicles	£90.00	£122.00
11+ vehicles	£90.00	£132.00
5 year operator licence – new and renewal		
1 vehicle	£380.00	£433.00
2 to 5 vehicles	£380.00	£482.00
6 to 10 vehicles	£380.00	£533.00
11+ vehicles	£380.00	£583.00
<b>Miscellaneous fees</b>		
Theft, loss etc of a licence	£12.50	£10.50
Theft, loss etc of a vehicle plate	£31.50	£20.00
Change of address	£12.50	£10.50
Replacement door stickers	£5.98ea	£5.99ea
DBS update service check	N/A	£5.00
Knowledge test re-sit fee	£20.00	£20.00
DBS standard enhanced check	£49.00	£49.00
DVLA licence check	£5.00	£5.00

- 3.4 The required public notice detailing the above proposed fees was placed in the Cambridge News on 23 November 2015, and the notice was also displayed on the Council's website, and a copy was deposited at the Council Offices in accordance with the requirements of the 1976 Act. In response to this public notice, two objections to the proposed changes were received from members of the taxi trade. These can be found in Appendix 1. The Committee must now consider these objections and decide whether or not it wishes to implement, modify or withdraw the proposed fees and charges. The Committee must also revise the date for any proposed new fees to come into force. This date must be within two months of the initial date of 29 December 2015.

#### 4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The proposed fees do not exceed cost recovery. They also reflect the fact that Members at their meeting of 18 November 2015 agreed with the Officer's recommendation to adopt a staged approach to reach full cost recovery over the next three to five years. Approving the proposed figures will help to reduce

the deficit between taxi licensing costs and taxi licensing revenue that has accumulated due in part to there not being a fee increase since 2011.

- 4.2 Approving the proposed increases will represent a significant percentage increase in fees for the trade. However, although the percentage increase appears high, an average one man/woman operation holding a driver, vehicle and operator licence would see a total increase of £77.00 per annum or £1.48 per week.
- 4.3 The 3 year driver and 5 year operator fees include future increases that will occur during the currency of these licences to ensure cost recovery occurs within the timeframe mentioned in point 4.1 above, and to ensure that those applying for 1 year licences do not subsidise those with 3 year or 5 year licences.
- 4.4 The costs of reviewing fees are covered by the fees paid by the trade.
- 4.5 Deficits and surpluses can be reflected when calculating the fees for future years.
- 4.6 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed showing there is likely to be an impact on the community. However, the changes have not been found to affect one group over another.

## 5.0 APPENDICES

- 5.1 Appendix 1 – Copy of the objections to the notice.
- 5.2 Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

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<b><u>Background Documents</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Contact Officer</u></b>
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	Room SF208, The Grange, Ely	Stewart Broome Senior Licensing Officer Tel: (01353) 616287 E-mail: stewart.broome@eastcambs.gov.uk
Deregulation Act 2015		