

## **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 22 January 2009 commencing at 5 p.m.**

Present: Cllr. Loney (Chairman)

Cllrs. Brigden, Darrington, McInnes and Waller.

#### **561. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 October 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **562. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs. Darrington, Loney, McInnes and Waller declared personal interests in Item No. 4 (minute 599 refers) as they were acquainted with Cllr. John Underwood, a taxi driver.

Cllrs. Darrington and McInnes declared personal interests in Item No. 4 (minute 599 refers) as they were acquainted with Mr. C. Annetts, a taxi driver.

#### **563. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING: LICENCE FEES 2009/10 (Report No. 4)**

The Chairman advised that the report considered the appropriate licence fees and associated costs of hackney carriage and private hire licensing for the 2009/10 financial year to ensure that the "Taxi Licensing" service remained self-financing.. The recommended rates had been increased by 3% per annum in accordance with the Council's Service and Budget Plan. He reminded members that the fees for the hackney carriage and private hire driver licences were fixed for three years and they were last raised by the Committee in January 2006. As this was the case, the rise in the fee for the next three year period was being set at 10%.

In response to a Members' concern, the Licensing Manager assured Members that although the driver licence fees were set for a three year period, they were reviewed each year. At any review stage the Committee could consider whether the fares were appropriate given the current economic climate.

The Licensing Manager clarified that the fee charged to hackney carriage and private hire drivers for carrying out Criminal Records Bureau Enhanced Searches was set by the Criminal Records Bureau.

Resolved: That from 1 April 2009, the list of fees and associated costs for licences in respect of hackney carriage drivers and vehicles and private hire drivers, vehicles and operators be varied as attached as an Appendix to these minutes.

## Licensing Committee – 22 January 2009

### 564. GAMBLING ACT 2005 – FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2009/10 (Report No. 5)

The Gambling Act fees were first set at the Licensing Committee on 30 May 2007. The Chairman advised that the Council currently had only eight Betting premises within the District that would be affected by the new proposed fee increases.

The Licensing Manager explained that the LACORS model had been used when establishing the proposed fees. The fees were similar to other neighbouring authorities and had been increased in line with inflation.

In response to a query, the Licensing Manager commented that enforcement visits to the eight Betting premises were carried out each year. He felt the visits had established that the premises were all low risk and well run.

Resolved: That the Gambling Act 2005 fees for 2009/10 as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 5.16 P.M.

Chairman

**Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Fees 2009/10**

	<b>New Fees</b>	<b>Existing Fees</b>
<u>Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence</u>		
On initial application	£154 for three years	£140
Criminal Records Bureau Search Fee	£36	£36
On renewal	£110 for three years	£100
Criminal Records Bureau Search Fee	£36	£36
<u>Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence</u>	£262 for one year	£254
<u>Private Hire Operator's Licence</u>		
On initial application	£273 for three years	£265
On renewal	£87 for three years	£84
<u>Private Hire Driver's Licence</u>		
On initial application	£154 for three years	£140
Criminal Records Bureau Search Fee	£36	£36
On renewal	£110 for three years	£100
Criminal Records Bureau Search Fee	£36	£36
<u>Private Hire Vehicle Licence</u>	£262 for one year	£254
<u>Additional Costs</u>		
Change of Hackney Carriage to Private Hire	£62	£59
Change from Private Hire to Hackney Carriage	£81	£79
Replace Vehicle Plate	£35	£30
Replace Identification Badge	£25	£20
Vehicle Re-test	£50	£50
Vehicle Partial Re-test	Half the current MOT fee	-----
Change Ownership of Licensed Vehicle	£61	£59

## Licensing Committee – 22 January 2009

### Appendix

Attempting “Knowledge Test” after two failures	£45 for each attempt	£45
Copies of existing licences	£7.50 each	£5

#### Replacement Vehicles

If a licensed vehicle is replaced during the valid licence period then the cost of licensing the replacement vehicle will be £262. However if the vehicle is replaced within six months of the issue of the licence then the fee will be reduced by £100 in the first of those six months; £90 in the second; £80 in the third; £70 in the fourth; £60 in the fifth and £50 in the sixth month.

If a licensed vehicle is replaced temporarily for up to 2 months because of damage to it then the fee will be £99 to test and licence the replacement vehicle and a further £99 to test and re-l licence the original vehicle.