

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2021 commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr. Clack (Chairman)

Cllr. Abraham (Vice Chairman)

Cllrs. Dr. Canet, Coleman, Edwards-Winsor, Hunter, Layland, Pett, Raikes and Waterton

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Bonin and Carroll

Cllrs. Osborne-Jackson was also present.

Cllr. Parkin was present via a virtual media platform which does not constitute attendance as recognised by the Local Government Act 1972.

12. Minutes

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 8 September 2021 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

13. Declarations of interest

No additional declarations of interest were made.

14. Actions from the previous meeting

There were none.

15. Licensing Gambling Policy Final Report

The Senior Licensing Officer presented the consultation responses to the Council's draft Statement of Principles Gambling Policy.

Members considered and discussed the consultation responses.

Resolved: That following consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Licensing Committee, delegated authority be given to the Head of the Licensing Partnership to make minor amendments to the Statement of Principles Gambling Policy consistent with the comments from the Gambling Commission and Members, together with minor typographical and presentational amendments.

16. Hackney Carriage - Fees and Charges 2022-23

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Members considered the report which proposed an increase to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licence fees from April 2022. If there were adverse comments received, the fees would come back to a future meeting of the Committee.

It was noted that in the 2020/21 year, a £40,000 loss in taxi income occurred due to a decrease in the number of driver, vehicle and operator applications processed due to Covid-19. Members considered whether they would consider further increasing fees to recover the costs.

Members discussed the proposed fees and further proposed additions to those fees in order to recover costs. It was noted that taxi drivers were likely to have been financially impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and that the £40,000 loss was due to extraordinary circumstances.

Resolved: That

- a) no further additions are made to the proposed 2022-2023 fees;
- a) the levels set out below be approved for consultation with the taxi trade;

Fees for 2022-2023 Hackney Carriage Driver Licence

| | Proposed Cost |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Knowledge Test | £51.50 per test |
| EQUO online test | £66 |
| New Driver application | £264 for three years |
| Driver Renewal application | £183 for three years |

Dual Driver Licence

| | Proposed Cost |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Knowledge Test | £51.50 per test |
| EQUO online test | £66 |
| New Driver application | £264 for three years |
| Driver Renewal application | £183 for three years |

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence

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| | Proposed Cost |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| New and Renewal Application | £325 for one year |

Private Hire Operator Licence

| | Proposed Cost |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| New application for 5 year licence | £747 |
| Renewal for 5 year licence | £586 |
| New application for 3 year licence | £534 |
| Renewal for 3 year licence | £374 |
| New application for 1 year licence | £324 |
| Renewal for 1 year licence | £164 |

Private Hire Driver Licence

| | Proposed Cost |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Knowledge Test | £51.50 |
| EQUO Online Test | £66 per test |
| New Driver application | £264 for three years |
| Driver Renewal application | £183 for three years |

Private Hire Vehicle Licence

| | Proposed Cost |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| New and Renewal Application | £297 for one year |

Additional Costs

| | Proposed Cost |
|---|---------------|
| DBS application | £40 |
| DBS administration fee | £30 |
| Change of Driver Licence type | £54 |
| Replace Vehicle Plate | £18 |
| Replace Driver Badge | £24 |
| Change of Ownership of licensed vehicle | £27 |
| Duplicate paper licence | £10 |

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| | Proposed Cost |
|--|---------------|
| Temporary Replacement | £33 |
| Add or remove a name from a vehicle licence | £18 |
| Change of name and address (driver badge not included) | £18 |
| Private hire exemption certificate | £42 |
| General Admin Fee | £30 |

If a vehicle licence is surrendered within 6 months of issue, a refund of £113 will be issued; and

- c) if, following consultation, there are no adverse comments to the proposed fee levels, the proposed fees and charges are implemented from 1 April 2022.

17. Work Plan

The work plan was noted.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 7.48 PM

CHAIRMAN