

REPORT TO: LICENSING COMMITTEE

DATE: 20 NOVEMBER 2018

TITLE: HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING FEES

LEAD OFFICER: MICHAEL PITT, ENVIRONMENT AND LICENSING MANAGER (01279) 446114

CONTRIBUTING OFFICER: DAVID TAYLOR, PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER – LICENSING (01279) 446164

RECOMMENDED that the Licensing Committee:

- A** Approves for publication the proposed revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing fee structure (attached as Appendix A to the report).
- B** Subject to no representations being received, recommends to Full Council that the proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing fee structure be adopted with effect from 1 April 2019.

BACKGROUND

1. The Council makes charges for the grant of driver, operator and vehicle licences under Sections 53(2) and 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
2. Fees are reviewed annually. Where fees for the grant of a licence are to exceed £25, the Act requires that proposals be published in a newspaper circulating in the area giving at least 28 days for representations. The Council is obliged to consider representations received.

ISSUES/PROPOSALS

3. All fees and charges are reviewed annually and may be revised to take account of cost of service delivery and inflationary pressures.
4. The Council is advised that the existing fee structure for Operator licenses should be consolidated into a single fee.
5. A proposed revised fee structure taking into account the issues identified above is set out at Appendix A.
6. The proposed revised fee structure will permit recovery of ongoing administration costs from the operator, driver and vehicle licence fees.

7. The proposed revised fee structure would be published in accord with the requirement set at out paragraph 2 above.
8. Should there be no representations the proposed revised fee structure would be put forward for adoption as part of the Council's annual fees and charges setting round. Any representations received would be reported to a future meeting of Licensing Committee for consideration. Subject to any amendments considered necessary the proposed revised fee structure would be put forward for adoption by Full Council.

IMPLICATIONS

Place (Includes Sustainability)

As contained within the report.

Author: Graeme Bloomer, Head of Place

Finance (Includes ICT)

The proposed increases represent identified cost growth in the provision of the service and will feature in the budget process for the 2019/20 financial year.

Author: Simon Freeman, Head of Finance

Housing

None specific.

Author: Andrew Murray, Head of Housing

Community Wellbeing (Includes Equalities and Social Inclusion)

None specific.

Author: Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing

Governance (Includes HR)

The Council will follow the correct procedure by advertising the new fees for the required 28 days. Provided the Council has due regard to any representations received the Council will mitigate the prospect of a challenge to the rise of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire fees.

Author: Dimple Roopchand, Solicitor on behalf of Colleen O'Boyle, Interim Head of Governance

Appendices

Appendix A – Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Fees

Background Papers

None.

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

None.

