

Licensing Committee
9 NOVEMBER 2017

Present: Councillors: Jim Sanson (Chairman), Karen Burgess, Peter Burgess, Billy Greening, Tony Hogben, Adrian Lee, Paul Marshall and Christian Mitchell

Apologies: Councillors: Roger Clarke, John Blackall, Philip Circus, Mike Morgan, Godfrey Newman, Brian O'Connell and Kate Rowbottom

LI/5 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LI/6 **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

LI/7 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

LI/8 **MINUTES OF LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 29 September were received.

LI/9 **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & LICENSING - LICENCE FEES FOR 2018/2019**

The Head of Environmental Health & Licensing reported on the proposed fees for various licences issued by the Environmental Health & Licensing Department. The fees, if approved by the Committee, would take effect on 1 April 2018.

The individual licence fees had been calculated to recover the cost of issuing the licence and enforcing the requirements of the legislation; legislation required that fees could not make a surplus for the Council. An increase of 2%, where appropriate, had been proposed to allow for inflation and increased council costs.

RESOLVED

That the fees for licences issued during 2018/19 be approved, as submitted, to take effect from 1 April 2018.

REASONS

- i) The setting of fees for licences is the responsibility of the Licensing Committee.
- ii) To ensure openness and transparency in decision making.

LI/10 HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCE FEES

The Licensing Inspector presented the proposed fees for hackney carriage and private hire licences for the three financial years 2018/19 to 2020/21. The new fees would come into effect from 1 April 2018.

Fees for hackney carriage and private hire licences had last been set in 2015. Setting fees for a period of three years allowed the trade to plan ahead and be certain of their fees over that period.

The licence fees had been calculated to recover the cost of issuing the licence and ensuring compliance with the licence conditions. An increase of 2% had been proposed to allow for inflation and increased council costs. Members noted the proposed fees for different types and duration of licence as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

Officers confirmed that all drivers undertook an enhanced DBS check on application, and this was retaken every three years. Safeguard training was also offered on a voluntary basis, and there were some safeguarding questions included with the application.

The Council was required to consult with the hackney/private hire trade on the proposed fees before they could be implemented.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the proposed fees, as set out in the report, be approved for a statutory consultation with the hackney/private hire trade and the public.
- (ii) That, subject to there being no representations received as a result of the consultation, the implementation of the new fees be determined by the Head of Environmental Health and Licensing in consultation with the Chairman of the Licensing Committee.

REASONS

- (i) To ensure compliance with legislative requirements.
- (ii) To ensure transparency and openness in decision making.

LI/11 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no matters of special urgency to be considered.

The meeting closed at 5.45 pm having commenced at 5.30 pm

CHAIRMAN