

**Licensing Committee**  
**20 DECEMBER 2022**

- Present: Councillors: John Blackall (Chairman), Richard Landeryou (Vice-Chairman), Karen Burgess, Peter Burgess, Lynn Lambert, Jon Olson, Josh Potts, Kate Rowbottom and Diana van der Klugt
- Apologies: Councillors: Billy Greening, Mike Morgan, Roger Noel, Louise Potter and Clive Trott
- Absent: Councillors: Alan Britten

LI/8 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 June were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LI/9 **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

LI/10 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor John Blackall, Chairman of the Committee, made two announcements:

He commented on the excellence of the recent Licensing training given by John Fitzsimons of Cornerstone Barristers and stated that it has been noted to invite him back to give training to the newly formed Licensing Committee in the new Municipal Year.

He thanked Councillor Karen Burgess for chairing the recent sub-committee so well.

LI/11 **MINUTES OF LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Sub-Committee held on 23 November were noted by the Committee.

LI/12 **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND LICENSING - LICENCE FEES FOR 2023/2024**

The Head of Environmental Health & Licensing introduced the report on proposed Licence Fees for 2022/24. Members noted the proposed fees set out in Appendix 1 for Licences issued by the Environmental Health and Licensing Department. Once approved, the new fees would take effect from 1st April 2023.

The Head of Environmental Health & Licensing advised that this was the first increase in fees for three years because of the challenges of Covid. The individual licence fees were calculated to recover the cost of issuing the licence and ensuring compliance with the requirements of the legislation. He confirmed that the 10% increase generally applied was required because of increased costs and that the Council would not make a surplus. The increase was in line with similar nearby local authorities.

RESOLVED

- (i) To approve the fees set out at Appendix 1 to this report to take effect from 1st April 2023.
- (ii) TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL the approval of the licensing fees set out at Appendix 1 and that such revised fees take effect from 1st April 2023.

REASON

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

LI/13 **HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES - RATE INCREASE**

The Licensing Inspector outlined the proposed increases in tariffs, as set out in the report. This was the first increase in rates for 10 years and was due to the significant increase in the price of fuel and the general cost of living.

Horsham Licensed Carriage Association and many of the independent hackney drivers had proposed an increase and the Head of Environmental Health & Licensing confirmed that the new rates were in line with what the trade felt was fair. It was noted that the proposal would not affect Private Hire Vehicles as they set their own fare rates.

RESOLVED

- (i) To agree the changes to Tariffs 1 – 6 as set out at Appendix 1 and the addition of a soiling charge, for statutory consultation with the hackney trade and public.
- (ii) To agree to advertise the proposed fare increases contained in Appendix 1.

- (iii) That, subject to satisfactory consultation procedure and there being no representations TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL the approval of the fares contained in Appendix 1.

REASON

- (i) To set standard fares throughout the district.
- (ii) To prevent fraud and overcharging of passengers.
- (iii) To ensure openness and transparency in decision-making.

LI/14 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

*The meeting closed at 5.50 pm having commenced at 5.30 pm*

CHAIRMAN