



LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING : Tuesday, 12th December 2023

PRESENT : Cllrs. Brooker (Chair), Kubaszczyk (Vice-Chair), Ackroyd, J. Brown, Campbell, Chambers-Dubus, Hyman and Radley

Officers in Attendance

Licensing Team Leader
Senior Lawyer, One Legal
Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. Bowkett, Finnegan, Patel, Tracey, Trimnell and Williams

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

27. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 12th September 2023 and Monday 20th November 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

28. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

There were no public questions.

29. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES, MAXIMUM 3 MINUTES PER PERSON)

There were no petitions nor deputations.

30. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING FEES AND CHARGES 2024/2025

30.1 The Licensing Team Leader introduced the report of the Corporate Director seeking to determine the level of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire license fees for 2024-25. He advised Members that Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing fees were set locally by the Council, and were last changed in

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2016 with an increase of 3%. The Licensing Team Leader explained that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Members had decided not to apply any increase to the fees in recognition of the impact the pandemic had had on the trade.

- 30.2 As fees had not seen an increase since 2016, the Licensing Team Leader confirmed that the report proposed a 2% increase to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire driver, vehicle and Private Hire operator fees for the 2024-25 financial year, noting that the proposed and current fees were outlined in Appendix 1. He also noted that the only fees which would see a significant increase were the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Knowledge tests.
- 30.3 Councillor J. Brown asked whether the proposed fees would be put out to consultation if the Committee accepted the recommendations. The Licensing Team Leader confirmed that they would.
- 30.4 Referring to the narrative at 3.9 in the report and the fees and charges outlined in Appendix 1, Councillor J. Brown observed that the proposed increase would increase Private Hire Knowledge Tests from £31 to £58. She asked whether the tests took place in-house or externally. The Licensing Team Leader confirmed that the tests took place in-house. He explained that the proposed increase was to reflect that the fee for these tests had not increased for several years, and the revised fee needed to reflect the costs to the Council, such as Officer time, for undertaking the tests.
- 30.5 The Chair moved to accept the recommendations outlined in the report. With no dissent, the recommendations were accepted.

RESOLVED – That the Licensing and Enforcement Committee: -

- 1) Approve the proposed hackney carriage and private hire licence fees shown in Appendix 1 for a 28-day public consultation as required by Section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 2) If no objections are received within 28 days of publication of the notice that the proposed increase to the fees and charges for hackney carriage and private hire licences will come into effect from 1 April 2024.
- 3) If objections are received within the 28 days, then the objections will need to be considered at the March 2024 meeting of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee.

31. QUARTERLY UPDATE

- 31.1 The Chair asked whether any Member had any questions pertaining to the quarterly report. Members indicated that they had read the report and understood its content.
- 31.2 The Chair thanked Officers for preparing the report and for their work over the quarter.

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RESOLVED – That the Licensing and Enforcement Committee **NOTE** the contents of the report.

32. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There was no requirement to exclude the press and public as no Member indicated that they wished to discuss agenda item 9.

33. LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing and Enforcement Sub Committee held on Thursday 5th October 2023 and Wednesday 22nd November 2023 were noted.

34. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 12th March 2024.

Time of commencement: 6.30 pm hours

Time of conclusion: 6.35 pm hours

Chair