



COUNCIL – 8TH MARCH 2016

SUBJECT: LICENSING/REGISTRATION/PERMIT FEES – 2016/17

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

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- 1.1 The attached report, which proposed an increase in the Licensing/Registration/Permit Fees, in order to recover reasonable costs of providing the service, was considered by the Licensing Committee on 18th February 2016, and sought the views of Members prior to its presentation to Council.
 - 1.2 The report and its appendices detailed fee increases in a number of areas, and Officers outlined details of the processes used to determine these fees. It was noted that in respect of fees for premises licences and club premises certificates (which are centrally set by the UK Government) that the Home Office are currently consulting local authorities on the likely costs of these types of licences and it is hoped that legislation enabling these to be locally set will finally be implemented.
 - 1.3 It is a legal requirement that the proposals in respect of taxi vehicle licences be advertised in the local press for a period of 28 days to allow for any trade objections. Historically any such objections received during the 28-day period have been considered by the Licensing Committee under delegated authority to deal with these matters and to determine when any fee variances should come into force and whether modifications are required. If no objections are received then the fee would automatically apply at the end of the 28 day period. Members were advised that the cost of the MOT/Compliance check has been deducted from the fee for 2016/17 as these will in future be paid directly to the garage at the time of the test. Arising from changes to the duration of licences under the Deregulation Act 2015, reviewed fees for hackney carriage/private hire vehicle drivers and private hire operator licences were considered by the Licensing Committee on 24th September 2015 and approved by Council on 17th November 2015, and hence will not be reviewed again until 2017/18.
 - 1.4 Following discussion on the contents of the report, the Licensing Committee noted the level of fees charged in connection with the Licensing Act 2003 and unanimously recommended to Council that for the reasons contained therein:-
 - (i) Where appropriate, the fees proposed for 2016/17, as outlined in Appendices 1 and 3 to the report, be implemented with effect from 1st April 2016;
 - (ii) The proposed fees for hackney carriage/private hire vehicle licences be advertised and the Licensing Committee be given delegated powers to consider any objections received and to determine the fees to be charged and the date on which any variations should come into force.

1.5 Members are asked to consider the recommendations.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Report to Licensing Committee on 18th February 2016