



## COUNCIL – 11TH MARCH 2014

**SUBJECT: LICENSING/REGISTRATION/PERMIT FEES – 2014/15**

**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 for the next financial year, was considered by the Licensing Committee on 27th February 2014.
  - 1.2 Members were advised that the review of fees involved the consideration of the cost to the Authority in providing the service, and a comparison of fees set by other authorities. They were reminded that a deficit still exists between the cost of providing the Licensing service and the income received from fees, and that an exercise reviewing cost recovery for certain licence types has begun. Concerns were raised in relation to this deficit and Officers advised that Licensing is a statutory function and fees are set to cover the reasonable costs of providing the service. The Authority has the ability to set fees for some types of licences but others, such as under the Licensing Act 2003, are set centrally by Government. Locally set fees cannot be used to compensate for under recovery in centrally set fees. The Government is currently reviewing fees for the Licensing Act 2003.
  - 1.3 Following discussion on the content 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 2014/15, as outlined in Appendices 1 and 3 to the report, be implemented with effect from 1st April 2014.
    - (ii) The proposed fees for hackney carriage/private hire vehicles and private hire vehicle operator 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.
  - 1.4 Members are asked to consider the recommendations.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Report to Licensing Committee on 27th February 2014