

Taxi Licensing Fees and Charges 2016/17 Representations

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report provides information on the representations received following publication of the proposed licence fees and charges for driver, vehicle and operator licences and other charges for 2016/17.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To consider the representations received and determine what action, if any, to take in respect of the proposed licence fees and charges for driver, vehicle and operator licences and other charges for 2016/17.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Any objections or representations received must be considered by the Council.
- 3.2 Any changes to the licensing fees and charges must be approved and in place prior to the commencement of the new financial year.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The hackney carriage and private hire licensing fees and charges are reviewed regularly. These licensing functions are self-financing and non-profit making and must be set at a level to recover the total costs incurred in providing the service.
- 4.2 At the last meeting, the Committee approved proposed licence fees and charges for driver, vehicle and operator licences and other charges for 2016/17.
- 4.3 In accordance with the requirements set out in Section 70(3)(b) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the proposed fees and charges have been published in a local newspaper inviting any representations to be lodged within 28 days. The closing date for these to be received was 4.00 pm on 24 February 2016.
- 4.4 The Act provides that where a representation is made and not withdrawn, the Council must consider it. One representation has been received which is attached at Appendix 2. This raises a number of issues about the methodology the Council has used to calculate the fees and charges and proposes an alternative method. Officers will consider this information and provide a verbal update at the meeting.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None. Fees and charges need to be set at a level to recover the total costs incurred in providing the service.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	Olu Idowu
Financial officer	n/a
Human Resources officer	n/a
Service Director(s)	John Tomlinson
Other(s)	n/a

For more information contact:	Michael Kay Tel 01332 641940 e-mail michael.kay@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Representation received from A2Z Licensing

IMPLICATIONS**Financial**

- 1.1 None directly arising from this report.

Legal

- 2.1 The Council may, taking in to account any relevant case law, charge such reasonable fees for the granting of licences to cover the whole or part of the recoverable costs associated with the administration and compliance of the licensing function.
- 2.2 The Council is required to publish in a local newspaper the proposals for changes to the level of driver, vehicle and operator fees. Any objections or representations must be lodged within 28 days from the date of the publication and considered by the Council.
- 2.3 Separate accounts must be kept for each type of licence that is issued; namely those for hackney carriage drivers, hackney carriage vehicles, private hire drivers, private hire operators and private hire vehicles. Any surplus/deficit generated in any financial year for any one type of licence must be used to offset that particular type of licence in the following financial year. This means that separate licence fees and charges will need to be calculated for each particular type of licence independently of each other and will, more likely than not, fluctuate each year.

Personnel

- 3.1 None directly arising from this report.

IT

- 4.1 None directly arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 The fees and charges set out in the report have been calculated using methodology which reflects the actual resources being used by each licence type. This will need to be undertaken each year to ensure it remains relevant and fair.

Health and Safety

6.1 None directly arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 None directly arising from this report.

Property and Asset Management

8.1 None directly arising from this report.

Risk Management

9.1 None directly arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1 The proposals set out in this report will deliver **better outcomes for our communities, more efficient and effective services and improved value for money for our customers.**