

LICENSING COMMITTEE 19 January 2017



Report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Fees and Charges from April 2017

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members will be aware of the significant changes that have already been approved and are still being considered in relation to hackney carriage and private hire licensing administrative processes and procedures.
- 1.2 The hackney carriage and private hire licensing fees and charges are usually reviewed at this time annually to enable the processes that support their introduction at the start of the next financial year to be put in place.
- 1.3 The changes being considered elsewhere in today's agenda will be implemented from 1 July 2017 and because decisions still need to be made on a number of proposals, the full costs involved with the changes cannot yet be assessed as, effectively, they are not yet known.
- 1.4 The proposal is to defer the consideration of any changes in fees and charges to the next meeting of the committee in March.

RECOMMENDATION

2.1 To approve that the current taxi licensing fees and charges for 2016/17 remain in force until 1 July 2017.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 To ensure that the fees and charges made reflect the costs involved with providing the licensing function and do not raise any significant or critical risks to the authority.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The hackney carriage and private hire licensing fees and charges are reviewed regularly, generally on an annual basis. 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 A number of significant changes have already been approved to hackney carriage and private hire licensing administrative processes and procedures which will take effect from 1 July 2017.
- 4.3 In addition, a number of further changes to these administrative processes and procedures are currently being considered by Licensing Committee, the decisions of which will not be implemented until 1 July 2017 at the earliest.
- 4.4 The full costs involved with the changes are not yet known and so it is proposed that, rather reviewing the fees and charges from the 1 April 2017 and reviewing them again from 1 July 2017, the current taxi licensing fees and charges remain in place until 1 July 2017 or until Licensing Committee make a further determination.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED	

5.1 No other options applicable.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	Olu Idowu
Financial officer	n/a
Human Resources officer	n/a
Estates/Property officer	n/a
Service Director(s)	n/a
Other(s)	Michael Kay

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1 None directly arising.

Legal

2.1 The Council may charge such fees for the granting of licences to cover the whole or part of the recoverable costs associated with the administration of and compliance with its licensing function.

Personnel

3.1 None directly arising.

IT

4.1 None directly arising.

Equalities Impact

5.1 None directly arising.

Health and Safety

6.1 None directly arising.

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 None directly arising.

Property and Asset Management

8.1 None directly arising.

Risk Management and Safeguarding

9.1 There would be significant reputational risk to Council if no action was taken to address the issues identified in the report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 The proposals set out in this report address the corporate objectives of:
 - protecting vulnerable children, young people, adults and older people
 - promoting health and well-being
 - being more commercial
 - delivering our services differently