

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

CHARGES FOR COMBINED HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVER LICENSING

Report of the Licensing Officer

Key Decision: No

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To consider the Charges for Combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Driver licences from 1st October 2015 to 31st March 2017 as a result of the Deregulation Act 2015.

2.0 **Recommendation** It is recommended that:

2.1 The charges as shown at Annex A are approved;

3.0 Summary

3.1 Licensing charges for Taxi and Private Hire were last reviewed in November 2014 and are reviewed on an annual basis. However, due to the Deregulation Act 2015 section 10 commencing 1st October 2015, combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle driver licences are to be issued for a 3 year period.

4.0 Subject of Report

4.1 Havant Borough may only recover certain costs incurred in carrying out licensing functions as detailed in Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Section 53 for driver licences. Currently combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle driver licences are issued annually, however Deregulation 2015 section 10 amends this.

4.2 From 1st October 2015, combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle driver licences are to be a standard 3 year duration (or for such lesser period as the Council think appropriate in the circumstance of the case i.e. at a Licensing Committee hearing)

4.3 Therefore we have calculated the fees for a 3 year licence (and 1 year licence fee should the Licensing Committee have cause to issue). The proposed fees set out in Annex A seek to fully recover relevant costs to the Council. The calculation of fees from an assessment of relevant costs is shown at Annex B

4.4 Fees are reviewed through an assessment of relevant costs. This is important to ensure that our fees are legally robust and that we have used a transparent methodology

5.0 Implications

Resources:

- 5.1 In arriving at the proposed charges, analysis of combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle driver and Private Hire Vehicle operator licensing income/expenditure by the Council's Financial Team was undertaken. A copy of the figures produced as a result of the analysis is shown at Annex B and effect the propose charge would have on annual income at Annex C.

Legal:

- 5.2 The setting of fees for driver licences is governed by section 53 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. The council may charge such amounts as they consider reasonable with a view to recovering the costs of issue and administration.

Strategy:

- 5.3 The proposed fees ensure Havant Borough Councils fee continue to be in alignment with relevant costs associated with licensing for which we can recover through fees. Re-assessing costs and fees is necessary to meet our strategic objective of achieving financial sustainability.

Risks:

- 5.4 The fees proposed can be justified against a transparent assessment of our costs for administering these particular licences.

Communications:

- 5.5 The taxi trade will be informed of the fees via post

For the Community:

- 5.6 The community will be provided with a safe form of public transport funded through the fees proposed in this report.
- 5.7 The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been completed and concluded the following that no further action necessary; attached at Annex D.

6.0 Consultation

N/A.

Annexes:

Annex A – Proposed charges

Annex B – Financial analysis figures

Annex C – Effect of proposed charge in annual income

Annex D – Integrated Impact Assessment

Background Papers:

None

Agreed and signed off by:

Legal: 19th August 2015

Finance: 1st September 2015

Relevant Executive Head: 2nd September 2015

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