

COMMITTEE	GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE
DATE:	10 SEPTEMBER 2018
TITLE:	PROPOSED TAXI LICENCE FEES 2018/19
PURPOSE:	APPROVE PROPOSED FEES TO BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 1 OCTOBER 2018
AUTHOR:	HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 You will recall that at a meeting of this Committee on 11th June 2018, there was a recommendation to increase the fees of taxi licences in order to ensure that costs associated with the administration of these fees are recovered in full. See the table in Appendix 1 of the report for full details of the proposed fees.
- 1.2 The Council is required to review its fees in respect of taxi licensing (i.e. hackney carriage licences, private hire vehicle licences, private hire operator and driver licences) on a regular basis. On 24 June 2013, this Committee resolved to review taxi fees annually.
- 1.3 Sections 53 and 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provide that fees may be charged at a level sufficient to pay reasonable costs; and in order to recover the costs fully the fees need to be increased by an average of 28%.

2. CONSULTATION WITH THE INDUSTRY

- 2.1 This Committee's decision in June to approve increasing the taxi licence fees was subject to a full public consultation, in accordance with the statutory requirements.
- 2.2 The industry has received a letter outlining the changes to the fees and the reasons for the increase; in order to allow enough time to highlight any concerns about the increase in fees (see Appendix 2). In accordance with Section 70 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1976, a public notice of proposed changes to fees appeared in the local press on 2nd August. There is a specific timetable for public consultations; and proposed changes will not come into force until responses to the formal consultation have been considered by this Committee.
- 2.3 The notice in the press (see Appendix 3) included a date upon which the fees would come into force, 28 days after the date of the notice, on condition that there are no objections to the fees. The new fees will not come into force until 1st of October 2018; if this Committee determines and gives its final approval.
- 2.4 The 28 days of consultation expired on 30 August; and we can confirm that no objections or written representations have been received. One local company has mentioned in an e-mail that it would be an idea to review the fares that the industry can charge customers. This is a fair point; as there has been no request for some years to review what the industry can charge. There is a statutory process and procedure for charging fares; and a written request is required from an industry representative in order to formally commence the process.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee finally approve the proposal to increase the fees to be operational from 1st October 2018, to the level recommended; in accordance with the procedure outlined following the public consultation.