

Annex A

Public Protection Partnership Budget - Supporting Information

1. Supporting Information – Fees and Charges

- 1.1. At the meeting of the Joint Public Protection Committee in December 2017 (when it considered the 2018/19 fees and charges) a number of matters were decided. It was agreed that as a matter of principle that all fees and charges should be set on the basis of full cost recovery. In 2018/19 the hourly rate for the service was set at £55 p/h as the basis of cost recovery. This was increased as a flat fee to £57 p/h (with rounding) in 2019/20. It is proposed in the 2020/21 that as the fee was rounded in 2019/20 from £56.38 to £57 that this year it should remain at £57 to account for the rounding in 2019/20.
- 1.2. In July 2018 the Committee received a further report asking it to consider the basis for setting fees and charges and the application of full cost recovery. That methodology was approved by the Committee. Based on previous decisions work has been carried out by officers to align fee structures.
- 1.3. In respect of all discretionary fees we have assumed an inflationary rise of 2.0%. This inflationary rise will balance the increase in cost of service provision such as the cost of living salary rise set out above. The result is the fees schedule set out at Appendix B to this report.

1.4. Taxi and Private Hire Related Fees

The 2018/19 fees and charges for taxi and private hire related activity showed a significant disparity between the former West Berkshire and Wokingham fee structure. These were brought into line for 2019/20

A review has taken place of the Private Hire PPP is currently proposing a review of Operator fees based on per vehicle charges which are more consistent, transparent and fairer for operators than the current banded ones.

The additional administration work of the dispensation vehicles will be incorporated into these new fees going forward so all vehicle licence fees are the same.

The new Operator fees are based on an administration fee for a new or renewal of a 5 year licence plus one hour for the first vehicle plus 15 minutes for each subsequent vehicle the operator has. There also needs to be a variation fee if an operator adds vehicles to the original number on the application plus the number of vehicles for each yearly inspection. Consideration needs to be made as to whether any refund is made on any reduction of numbers as this change will mean that each time there is a

variation of numbers a new licence will need to be issued-however this will be an administrative burden and will put costs up.

1.5. Animal Welfare Establishments

On 1 October 2018 the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 came into force. These regulations are made under powers conferred under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, and replace a number of pieces of legislation under which the Council previously issued licences and registrations.

Activities licensable under the regulations are selling animals as pets, providing or arranging for the provision of boarding for cats or dogs, hiring out horses, breeding dogs, or keeping or training animals for exhibition.

A new set of fees are required as the fees charged under the preceding legislation do not cover the costs associated with the new regulations. Costs have increased as a result of matters such as increase administration, new higher inspection requirements and the required qualifications for inspectors.

A set of fees have been calculated based upon the costs now encountered by PPP in dealing with the new licensing regime.

These fees have been drawn up with the benefit of operation of the new licensing regime. In order to assist Members Appendix C to this report gives a worked example of how the fees are calculated and any potential savings for high levels of compliance.

The very essence of the scheme is risk based and the higher the risk the more you will pay over any given risk period.

5.6 Fees Under Review

These fees the need to be kept under constant review. The centralised Applications Team settles and as we move to a single system in particular (where applicants will be able to apply on-line) it is anticipated that they may be some efficiencies that affect fees.

In particular we will be concentrating on whether fees for renewals could be reduced through the use of new technology.

Background Papers:

Papers containing facts or material you have relied on to prepare your report. The public can access these background papers.

PPP Strategic Aims and Priorities Supported:

The proposals will help achieve the following Public Protection Partnership aims as stated in the Inter Authority Agreement:

- 1 – Community Protection
- 2 – Protecting and Improving Health
- 3 – Protection of the Environment
- 4 – Supporting Prosperity and Economic Growth
- 5 – Effective and Improving Service Delivery

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