

**TO: LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
11 JUNE 2015**

**FEES FOR LICENSING OF PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE OPERATORS
Chief Officer: Environment and Public Protection**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of the Committee forthcoming amendments to the licensing of operators of private hire vehicles, and to seek approval for a new set of fees which will be required as a result of these changes.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the Committee agrees that the proposed charges for five year licences for private hire vehicle operators as attached at Annex A are:**

- i) **advertised; and**
- ii) **if no objections are received, implemented for any licences commencing from 1 October 2015; or**
- iii) **if objections are received they be considered at the next Committee meeting on the 5 October 2015.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 The recommendation recognises the forthcoming requirement for the Council to be in a position to issue private hire vehicle operator licences for a duration of five years.
- 3.2 Fees charged for the licensing of private hire vehicle operators are required by Section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to be advertised and any objections received to be brought back to this Committee for consideration. It is recommended that in the event of objections being received they be considered at the next Committee meeting. Otherwise the fee shall come into force with effect from 1 October 2015.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Members may choose to vary the proposed fees prior to the consultation. When setting the level of fees for the licensing regime, the Council may cover its costs but must not make a profit. Officers have set these fees with this in mind.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The Deregulation Act 2015 shall amend the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 with effect from 1 October 2015 to make the default driver licence duration 3 years, and default operator licence duration 5 years.
- 5.2 The Council already offers the option of a 3-year licence to applicants for driver and operator licences. So the only change required to be made prior to 1 October 2015 is to introduce a fee for the 5 year operator licence.

Unrestricted

- 5.3 The Council shall have discretion to issue licences for periods shorter than 3 years (for drivers) and 5 years (for operators) if it deems it appropriate in the circumstances. It is proposed that the 1 and 3 year options remain available to Operators.
- 5.4 One additional change brought about with immediate effect from 1 April 2015 was to abolish the rule that a licensed operator could only sub-contract bookings to another operator licensed by the same district.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The legal implications are identified within the report.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The financial implications are identified within the report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 There are no implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 There are no implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 There are legal provisions requiring consultation by notice and in a local newspaper and these will be conducted.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 As above.

Representations Received

- 7.3 No consultation process undertaken at the time of writing the report.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

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