

Minutes of Licensing Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 1 November 2016 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor J Alcock (Chairman)

Councillors:

R Bennett	G Geldard
I Brown	S Hind
S Brunskill	A Knox
P Elms	G Scott
M Fenton	R Swarbrick

In attendance: Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Solicitor.

372 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Atkinson, R Hargreaves, G Mirfin and J White.

373 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Committee received the minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 5 August 2016 and 17 October 2016.

374 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest.

375 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

376 FEES AND CHARGES

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking Committee to determine the annual fees for hackney carriage and private hire licences, scrap metal dealers licences and sex establishment licences. The Council has the power to charge for licences subject to statutory provisions which both give rise to the power to charge and specify the way the charge for certain licences has to be calculated. The legislation provides that the fees should be set at a level which provides such a fee as they consider reasonable with a view to recovering the costs of issue and administration. The report outlined the current fees charged alongside the proposed fees to be charged, the uplift in fees was approximately 1.5% rounded up or down as most appropriate.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree to set the fees for

1. hackney carriage and private hire licences for the year 2017/2018 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;

2. scrap metal dealers licences for the year 2017/2018 as set out in Appendix 2 to the report; and
3. sex establishment licences for the year 2017/2018 as set out in Appendix 3 to the report.

APPENDIX 1

PRIVATE HIRE & HACKNEY CARRIAGE	2016 from 1 April	2017 from 1 April
	£	
Driver's application/renewal annual Licence	58.90	59.80
Driver's application/renewal 3 year licence	156.10	158.50
Replacement Driver's Badge	12.05	12.30
Vehicle Licences:		
ANNUAL – Up to 3 years old	164.75	167.30
6 MONTHS – Over 3 years but not exceeding 7 years	87.25	88.60
4 MONTHS – Over 7 years	62.15	63.10
Discount on previous Licence (1/12 th annual)	13.70	13.90
Transfer on Licence ownership	24.15	24.60
New or replacement:		
Plates	15.00	15.00
Brackets	15.00	15.00
Private Hire Operators annual licence	152.70 per annum for 5 vehicles or fewer.	155.00 per annum for 5 vehicles or fewer.
Additional Vehicles	11.95	12.20
Private Hire Operators 3 year licence	404.70 per annum for 5 vehicles or fewer.	410.80
Additional Vehicles	31.58	32.10
Private Hire Operators 5 year licence	674.50 for 5 vehicles or fewer.	684.70
Additional Vehicles	52.80	53.60
Change to Operators Licence	11.45	11.70
Copy of Operators Licence	15.00	15.30
Log books (100 sheets) each	1.65	1.70
Knowledge test – first one free - paper	7.70	7.90
- in person	15.35	15.60

APPENDIX 2

	From 1 April 2016	From 1 April 2017
	£	£
Application/Renewal of Site Licence	286.80	291.20
Variation of Site Licence	186.35	189.20
Application/Renewal of Collector's Licence	207.10	210.30
Variation of Mobile Collector's Licence	165.65	168.20

APPENDIX 3

	From 1 April 2016	From 1 April 2017
	£	£
Grant of Sex Shop	3,105.90	3,152.50
Grant of Sex Cinema	3,105.90	3,152.50
Grant of Sexual Entertainment Venue	5,176.50	5,254.20
Renewal of Sexual Entertainment Venue	2,588.25	2,627.10
Transfer of Sexual Entertainment Venue	517.65	525.50
Variation of Sexual Entertainment Venue	517.65	525.50

377 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A REPLACEMENT FOR THE DVSA TAXI DRIVER TEST

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking Committee's approval for a replacement to the DVSA taxi driver test. The Council had received notification from the DVSA that it intends to stop offering the test from 31 December 2016 and it was therefore necessary to look at the options available. The test had been introduced to ensure that all applicants for licences had a suitable level of driving ability and also provided training on other aspects of driving safety and service. It was not recommended therefore that the requirement be removed but that an alternative provider be found. A number of licensing authorities in the surrounding area were already using an alternative provider called Diamond Advanced Motorists where the testing requirements and costs were broadly the same as those required in the DVSA test. This provider offered both a standard and enhanced test; the enhanced test including a wheelchair exercise. It was felt by Committee that the Highway Code questions offered at the beginning of the test suitable for taxi test candidates, should be made compulsory.

The solicitor reported that since this report had been written, an email had been received from another company who intend to offer the same service, but which is not yet available. In light of this the Head of Legal and Democratic Services should review the situation if necessary.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the DIA as an alternative testing authority for private hire and taxi driving testing with immediate effect;
2. approve DIA as the relevant testing authority for private hire and taxi driving testing from 1 January 2017;
3. approve the testing requirements as set out at paragraph 3.3 in the report; and
4. authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to review the providers should other providers become available.

378 HACKNEY CARRIAGE STANDS

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking Committee's views on the creation of additional hackney carriage stands. At the taxi meeting held in September, a request had been made for additional hackney carriage stands to be created at:

- Accrington Road, Whalley
- Train station, Clitheroe (outside of bus times)
- Market Place, Clitheroe (opposite the existing temporary stand)

These proposals had been sent to Lancashire County Council for comment as well as discussed with the local Police Officers, whose response was positive. The response received from Lancashire County Council was that they had no issue in principle with the creation of a stand at the train station, as long as it was outside the hours that buses operate. With regard to the creation of a hackney carriage stand on Accrington Road, Whalley the highway authority was in the process of creating a new traffic order which was due to go to Committee in November 2106. If this was approved the order would create a loading bay on Accrington Road outside Rendezvous nightclub between the hours of 8am and 6pm and it was suggested that this may be an appropriate space to create a temporary taxi rank outside of those hours; the highway authority was also about to begin the process of reviewing its traffic order for the whole of Castle Street, and Market Place and York Street in Clitheroe and it was suggested that any change to the hackney stands be incorporated into this review.

RESOLVED: That Committee authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to take the steps identified in the report with regard to the additional hackney carriage stands and that a request for signage at the station be made to Lancashire County Council.

379 ARRANGEMENTS FOR TAXI ENFORCEMENT OPERATION

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information regarding the arrangements made for future taxi enforcement operations. At the taxi meeting held on 13 September 2016, a request was made by licence holders for joint enforcement operations to be carried out by the Council, the local constabulary and the Vehicle and Operator services Agency. It was intended that these

operations would begin prior to the busy Christmas period and a further report would be submitted to Committee in due course detailing the results of the operations and any action taken as a result.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Diane Rice (414418).