

Report to: Environment and Licensing Committee
Subject: Proposed General and Taxi Licensing Fees for 2018/19
Date: 6th February 2018
Author: Service Manager, Public Protection

Purpose of Report

To approve a proposed increase to taxi licensing fees for 2018/19 as shown in Appendix 1, subject to advertisement requirements being satisfied, and to approve an increase in general fees for 2018/19 as shown in Appendix 2.

Information

The fixing of fees proposed in the attached fee schedules at Appendix 1 and 2 for 2018/19 is a function of the Licensing Committee as laid out in the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities)(England) Regulations 2000.

The proposed fees and charges for 2018/19 are designed to ensure that the service operates on a full cost recovery basis. All fees for 2018/19 show an increase of fees from 2017/18, this increase reflects increased costs and a fuller assessment of the total costs of providing the service particularly with reference to the increased workload for customer services and also associated with the need for additional administration associated with the introduction of The Immigration Act 2016.

With specific reference to taxis, The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 ('the Act') permits the Council to set vehicle and operator licence fees, but where this fee exceeds £25, as is the case at Gedling, a public notice of the proposed fees must be advertised in a local newspaper circulating in the district. The advertisement must advise where any objections to the fee changes can be lodged and must allow a period of at least 28 days from publication of the notice for objections to be lodged. If no objections are made or if all objections are withdrawn the fees come into effect at the end of the 28 day period. Where objections are not withdrawn, the Council must then consider the objections before determining the fee level and setting a further date, not later

than two months after the first specified date, on which the new fees shall come into force.

In relation to taxi drivers' licence application fees, there is no statutory requirement to publicise any changes in the level of fees. However, as with the vehicle and operator licence fees, Gedling will publish details of the proposed fees for 2018/19 and provide for a period of 28 days from publication for any objections to the fees to be lodged with the Council. Any such objections will be considered by the Council before the proposed fees are finally approved. This 28 day period will be a period of consultation, the results of this will be considered before final determination of these fees.

In relation to the other fees listed in the attached Appendix 2 for 2018/19 there is no requirement to advertise any increases in fees and again, the fees have been calculated on a cost recovery basis. All fees with the exception of the application for a sex establishment license are solely to cover the costs of administering the application, whether the application is approved or not. For sex establishment applications, the fee is broken down into part A, paid by all for an application and part B, paid additionally by successful applicants to cover the extra costs of administering and enforcing the license. This approach is in line with the Provision of Services Regulations 2009.

Proposal

It is proposed that the fees and charges detailed in Appendix 2 for 2018/19 be approved from 1st April 2018.

In respect of taxi operators licence fees and vehicle licence fees, it is proposed that the fees outlined in Appendix 1 for 2018/19 be approved for advertisement in accordance with the Act and subject to no objections being received by the specified date (28 days after publication) those fees will come into effect. If objections are received, in line with the Act the Council will have to consider the objections and set a further date no later than 2 months after the first specified date on which the new fees would come into force.

In respect of Taxi drivers' licence application fees it is proposed that Members approve the proposed fees outlined in Appendix 1 for 2018/19 for advertising but that the final decision to approve new fees for 2018/19 for taxi driver applications be delegated to the Corporate Director in consultation with the Chair of Environment and Licensing Committee following advertisement of the proposed fees and a 28 day period for consultation.

Financial implications

The proposed fees and charges are designed to ensure that the service operates on a full cost recovery basis

Recommendations

1. That Members approve the fees and charges detailed in Appendix 2 for 2018/19 with effect from 1st April 2018.
2. That Members approve the fees for taxi operators and vehicle licences as detailed in Appendix 1 for 2018/19 for advertisement in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, such fees to automatically come into force if no objections are received within the statutory period.
3. That Members approve the proposed fees for taxi driver's licences detailed in Appendix 1 for 2018/19 for advertisement and the Corporate Director in consultation with the Chair of Environment and Licensing Committee be authorised to agree the final fees after taking into account any comments received during the consultation period.

Appendix 1.

Proposed Taxi Licence Fees

Driver Licence Fee 1 year	£139.00
Driver Licence Fee 3 year	£359.00
Knowledge Test Fee	£60.00
Vehicle Licence Fee	£135.00
Vehicle Inspection	£79.00
Re-test	£49.00
Meter Test	£339.00
Operator's Licence 1 year	£103.00 plus £103.00 per additional vehicle
Operator's Licence 3 year	£544.00 plus £154.00 per additional vehicle
Transfer of vehicle licence	£13.00
Change of name and/or address on a licence	£13.00
Replacement badge and plate fee	£17.00
Vehicle registration change	£13.00
Replacement badge holder	£6.00
Vehicle retest (including after accident damage/enforcement action)	£49.00

NB. If after applying for a 3 year driver licence, the applicant is only granted a 1 year licence, then there will be a refund of £89.00 payable from the 3 year application fee of £359.00

Appendix 2.

Proposed General Licence Fees

Licenses (exempt from VAT)	
Special treatment involving massage	£192.00
Special treatment	£179.00
Laser treatment-first application	£248.00
Laser treatment-renewal	£125.00
Laser treatment-variation	£248.00
Sex establishments	Part A £3,493. Part B £3,240
Animal boarding	£175.00
Riding establishments	£175.00

Breeding of dogs	£159.00
Breeding of dogs where associated with animal boarding	£52.00
Dangerous wild animals	£222.00
Pet animals (pet shops)	£131.00
Mobile home, new site licence fee	£556.00
Mobile home, transfer or amendment of licence	£186.00
Mobile home, annual pitch fee	£6.16
Registrations (exempt from VAT)	
Ear piercing/tattooing/electrolysis/acupuncture	
-Persons	£69.00
-Premises	£150.00