



**Report to:** Environment and Licensing Committee  
**Subject:** Proposed General and Taxi Licensing Fees for 2014/15  
**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014  
**Author:** Corporate Director – David Wakelin

### **Purpose of Report**

To approve a proposed increase to taxi licensing fees for 2014/15 as shown in Appendix 1, subject to advertisement requirements being satisfied, and to approve an increase in general fees for 2014/15 as shown in Appendix 2.

### **Information**

The fixing of fees proposed in the attached fee schedules at Appendix 1 and 2 for 2014/15 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 2014/15 are designed to ensure that the service operates on a full cost recovery basis. All fees for 2014/15 show an increase of fees from 2013/14, 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

With specific reference to taxis, The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 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 If no objections are made or if all objections are withdrawn the fees come into effect at the end of the 28 day period. Where objections are not withdrawn, the Council must then consider the objections before determining the fee level and setting a further date, not later than two months after the first specified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 2014/15 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.

As part of the taxi drivers' application fees for 2014/15 shown in Appendix 1, a fee of £35.00 has been added to applicants sitting the Gedling Borough Council Knowledge Test. This Test, if approved by this Committee will come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014. The £35.00 fee has been calculated to ensure full recovery of the costs required to provide and administer the knowledge test. This £35.00 fee is subject to the Gedling Borough Council Knowledge Test being approved by this Committee.

In relation to the other fees listed in the attached Appendix 2 for 2014/15 there is no requirement to advertise any increases in fees and again, the fees have been calculated on a cost recovery basis.

### **Proposal**

It is proposed that the fees and charges detailed in Appendix 2 for 2014/15 be approved from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

In respect of taxi operators licence fees and vehicle licence fees, it is proposed that the fees outlined in Appendix 1 for 2014/15 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 2014/15 for advertising but that the final decision to approve new fees for 2014/15 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.

It is proposed that the £35.00 proposed fee payable for the Gedling Borough Council Knowledge Test be approved by Members for advertisement but that the decision to approve the Knowledge Test fee for 2014/15 be delegated to the Corporate Director in consultation with the Chair of Environment and Licensing Committee following advertisement of the proposed fee and a 28 day consultation period and subject to Members approving the introduction of the Gedling Borough Council Knowledge Test.

## **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 2014/15 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.
2. That Members approve the fees for taxi operators and vehicle licences as detailed in Appendix 1 for 2014/15 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 2014/15 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.
4. That subject to Members approving the introduction of the Gedling Borough Council Knowledge Test, Members approve the proposed fee of £35 for the Gedling Borough Council Knowledge test for advertisement and the Corporate Director in consultation with the Chair of Environment and Licensing Committee be authorised to agree the final fee after taking into account any comments received during the consultation period.

## Appendix 1.

### Proposed Taxi License Fees

Driver License Fee	
-New Drivers	£93.00
-Existing Drivers	£74.75
Vehicle Licensing Fee	£99.75
Vehicle Inspection	£58.25
Re-test	£36.25
Meter Test	£28.00
Operators License	£59.00
Knowledge Test Fee	£35.00

## Appendix 2.

### Proposed General License Fees

<b>Licenses (exempt from VAT)</b>	
Special treatment involving massage	£155.25
Special treatment	£145.00
Laser treatment-first application	£200.75
Laser treatment-renewal	£100.50
Laser treatment-variation	£200.75
Sex establishments	£5,440.50
Animal boarding	£141.25
Riding establishments	£141.25
Breeding of dogs	£128.50
Breeding of dogs where associated with animal boarding	£41.50
Dangerous wild animals	£180.25
Pet animals (pet shops)	£105.75
<b>Registrations (exempt from VAT)</b>	
Ear piercing/tattooing/electrolysis/acupuncture	
-Persons	£55.50
-Premises	£121.50