

Report to Environment and Licensing Committee

Subject: Taxi Licensing Fees for 2020/21

Date: 1st December 2020

Author: Report of Director of Health and Community Wellbeing

Purpose

To approve the proposed increase of fees for taxi driver, operator and vehicle licences for 2020/21 as shown in Appendix 1, subject to consideration of the objections that have been received by the Council.

Recommendation(s)

That Members:

Approve the increase of fees for taxi driver, operator and vehicle licences for 2020/21 as shown in Appendix 1, subject to consideration of the objections that have been received by the Council at Appendix 2.

1 Background

1.1 Following a report to the meeting held on 6th October 2020, where members were informed of the reasons the fees had not been increased in April 2020 namely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in recognition of the difficulties facing taxi licence holders during this period, it was subsequently resolved to approve that:

- 1) *Fees for taxi operators and vehicle licences, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report for 2020/21, for advertisement in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and that such fees will automatically come into force if no objections are received within the statutory period. If any objections are received within the statutory period that these be referred back to Committee for consideration in accordance with the legislation; and*

2) *The proposed fees for taxi driver's licences detailed in Appendix 1 to the report for 2020/21 for advertisement and the 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.*

1.2 The proposed fees for driver, operator and vehicle licences (Appendix 1) were published in accordance with the legislation and the consultation was open for 28 days. During this period there have been 18 objections, one of them containing 10 separate signatures, received by the Council to the proposed increase in fees and these are attached at Appendix 2.

1.3 Although the Director in consultation with the Chair was given delegated authority to consider the driver fees it is felt appropriate that all the proposed fee increases be considered together by the Committee as the objections that have been received relate to all the fees and this will ensure a consistent approach when considering these objections.

2 Proposal

2.1 It is proposed that Members approve the increase of fees for taxi driver, operator and vehicle licences for 2020/21 as shown in Appendix 1, subject to consideration of the objections that have been received by the Council at Appendix 2.

3 Alternative Options

3.1	That the fee increase is not approved resulting in the Council not operating the service at full cost recovery.
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4 Financial Implications

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

5 Legal Implications

5.1 None

6 Equalities Implications

6.1 None

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

7.1 None

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 - Taxi driver, vehicles and operator proposed fees 2020/21
Appendix 2 – Objections to the proposed increase in fees for driver,
operator and vehicle licences.

9 Background Papers

9.1 None