

LICENSING COMMITTEE



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| Report subject | Harmonisation of Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Fees for BCP Council |
| Meeting date | 19 May 2021 |
| Status | Public Report |
| Executive summary | <p>The Licensing Committee, on 4th March, agreed to a single set of fees for the provision of taxi and private hire functions.</p> <p>In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 once agreed the fees are subject to a 28 day period of consultation and must be advertised in a local paper.</p> <p>If there are any objections to the fees received in the consultation period, then these must then be discussed by the Licensing Committee and if appropriate any changes to the fees as proposed can be made.</p> |
| Recommendations | <p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Members consider the proposed fees and either</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Confirm agreement with the proposed taxi and private hire fees b) Agree amended fees following consideration of consultation feedback |
| Reason for recommendations | <p>The now dissolved boroughs of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole have all previously published individual non statutory fees.</p> <p>The Local Government (Structural Changes) (General)(Amendment) Regulations 2018 provides that the Licensing Authority has 24 months from the date of reorganisation to prepare and publish fees for the new local government area.</p> |

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| Portfolio Holder(s): | Councillor May Haines – Community Safety |
| Corporate Director | Kate Ryan – Corporate Director for Environment & Community |
| Report Authors | Nananka Randle, Licensing Manager, Communities |
| Wards | Council-wide |
| Classification | |

Background

1. Sections 53 and 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allow the Licensing Authority to charge fees for the grant of licences in respect of hackney carriage and private hire drivers, vehicles, and operators.
2. Section 70 specifies that for vehicle and operators licences, if the cost of fees is varied and this exceeds £25.00, then the council must publish a notice in at least one local paper which sets out how objections can be made, for a period of not less than 28 days. A copy of the notice must also be displayed at the council offices for this period.
3. The Licensing Committee agreed a harmonised set of taxi and private hire fees at its meeting on the 4th March 2021. These fees have been set, based on estimated officer time and including any direct costs such as purchase of badges, plate templates and door insignias etc for vehicles. The proposed fees are set out in Appendix 1
4. A copy of the notice published in the Dorset Echo on 18th March 2021 is shown in Appendix 2. I can also confirm the notice was displayed in the town hall annexe and on main town hall reception notice board for a 28-day period following the publication..

Objections

5. On the 4th March 2021 Mr Kevin Diffey submitted an objection to the proposed fee variations as presented to the Licensing Committee on the 4th March 2021, but this was received too late to be included within that meeting. As such it was agreed that that this would be put forward as an objection within the 28 day consultation period. This objection is attached at Appendix 3.
6. I can confirm there have been no other formal objections to the proposed fees.

Options Appraisal

7. Members are asked to
 - a) Confirm agreement with the proposed fees as presented at the Committee meeting on 4th March 2021
 - b) Agree any amendment to the proposed fees

Summary of financial implications

8. The fees as proposed and agreed on the 4th March 2021 were calculated on a cost recovery basis in agreement with the finance officer.

Summary of legal implications

9. The fees are required to meet the costs of the services and must be set in accordance with the legislation on a cost recovery basis. If the fees are set incorrectly this can result in judicial review.

Summary of human resources implications

10. The service will be delivered by existing staff.

Summary of sustainability impact

11. Not applicable

Summary of public health implications

12. Not applicable

Summary of equality implications

13. Not applicable

Summary of risk assessment

14. Not applicable

Background papers

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1976/57>

Appendices

Appendix 1 – proposed fees

Appendix 2 – Notice which appeared in the Echo

Appendix 3 – Objection from Mr Diffey