

WIRRAL COUNCIL

LICENSING HEALTH AND SAFETY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

28 JANUARY 2015

SUBJECT:	PERIODIC REVIEW OF LICENSING FEES FOR TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES
WARD AFFECTED:	ALL WARDS
REPORT OF:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for Members of the Licensing Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee to review and approve the licence fees in respect of Hackney Carriage, Private Hire and Operator Licences with effect from 1 April 2015.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The Council are legally entitled to charge such a fee for licences that they consider reasonable with a view to recover the costs of the issue and administration of the licence.
- 2.2 Under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the cost of a licence must be related to the cost of the licensing scheme itself. It is therefore appropriate for a local authority to recover their administrative and other associated costs.
- 2.3 The fees for Hackney Carriage, Private Hire and Operator Licences must be reviewed on an annual basis to determine whether the income received for the previous year has been in line with the cost of delivering the service. This review has been undertaken and it has been identified that the projected income received for the financial year 2014-2015 will not cover the costs of delivering the service.

3.0 PROPOSED FEES

- 3.1 A review of the fee structure for the functions undertaken in the administration of licences for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles, drivers and operators has been undertaken and it has been identified that the current fee structure does not reflect the administration costs of all the processes that are currently undertaken by the Licensing Service in respect of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage functions.
- 3.2 The cost of the administration of these processes has been calculated and the proposed fees set out in the table in Appendix 1 are considered appropriate to recover these costs.

3.3 In addition, from January 2015 the licensing function will be subject to a 2.2% increase in staffing costs. Members are therefore asked to approve an increase in the current licensing fees to reflect the increase in this cost of the administration.

3.4 Members are asked to approve the fee structure proposed in Appendix 1.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

4.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 There is no provision for other options to be considered.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Increases in respect of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licences and Private Hire Operators Licences must be advertised for a period of 28 days and if any objections are received, they will be reported back to this Committee for consideration.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

8.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

8.1 There are none.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

9.1 There are cost implications to the Council in undertaking this legal duty and this is recognised in the legislation which gives provision for the Council to recover the costs of administering the scheme and to ensure compliance.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 A decision of the Committee may be subject to legal challenge.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

No because there is no relevance to equality.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no specific carbon reduction implications arising from this report.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no Planning implications arising out of this report.

14.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 That Members of the Licensing Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee review and approve the licence fees as set out in Appendix 1 in respect of Hackney Carriage, Private Hire and Operator Licences with effect from 1 April 2015, subject to any objections being received as part of the consultation process.

15.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

15.1 It is a statutory requirement for this Committee to review and approve the licence fees.

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APPENDICES

- APPENDIX 1 – Fee structure

BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL

BRIEFING NOTES HISTORY

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date