



<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Licensing Committee
<b>DATE:</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	Head of Planning and Public Protection
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Public Protection Business Manager <a href="mailto:licensing@denbighshire.gov.uk">licensing@denbighshire.gov.uk</a> 01824 706066
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Proposed Changes to Taxi Licensing Fees and Charges

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To further consider the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire fees and charges in light of consultation responses received to the original fee structure.

## **2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1. Officers consulted on a proposed table of fees and charges for hackney carriage and private hire licensing, which was agreed by Members at the meeting in September of this year.
- 2.2 As part of the consultation, Members are requested to consider the previously agreed fees for the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing regime.

## **3.0 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION**

- 3.1 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

## **4.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 4.1 Sections 53 and 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 ("the Act") allow the Council to charge fees for the grant of licences in respect of hackney carriage and private hire drivers, vehicles and operators. The legislation specifies the elements that can be included in the cost of the licence fee.
- 4.2 The cost of issue and administration can be recovered in drivers' licence fees. In respect of vehicle and operator licences, the reasonable cost of inspecting vehicles, providing hackney carriage stands and any reasonable administrative or other costs in connection with the foregoing

and with the control and supervision of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles can be included in the fees.

- 4.3 The cost for the enforcement of unlicensed drivers, vehicles or operators cannot be included in the calculation. The Council cannot make a profit from licence fees and there must be a carry forward of any surplus. There can also be recovery of any deficit. The reconciliation of any surplus and deficit is over a three-year cycle.
- 4.4 Following a review of fees and charges associated with the licensing process a table of fees was presented to the Licensing Committee at their last meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017. This table is at Appendix A.
- 4.5 Members resolved to approve the fees and charges and authorised officers to publish the changes as required in the Act. Publicising the fees provides a further opportunity for comment or objection. Members requested that where objections are received a further report is presented to the Licensing Committee to enable Members to consider those objections.
- 4.6 The proposed fees were published in the Rhyl Journal and the Denbighshire Free Press in their publications for the week beginning 16 October. A copy of the notice is at Appendix B.
- 4.7 The end date for representations was 17 November 2017. The Licensing Section received objections from one driver during this period and these are outlined in Appendix C along with further comments from officers.

## 5.0 **CONSIDERATIONS**

- 5.1 Members should consider all the objections and comments outlined in Appendix C to decide if the fees require modification.
- 5.2 The last increase in the fees and charges for taxi licensing was in April 2008, save for an increase to the Private Hire Driver fee to its current level in 2009.
- 5.3 Members are reminded that, as specified in the Act, where an objection is made and not withdrawn, the council shall set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date, on which the variation shall come into force with or without modification as decided by the council after consideration of the objections. There is no requirement to further consult.

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATION**

### 6.1 That Members

- 1) Approve the fees and charges at Appendix A, or
- 2) Modify the fees and charges at Appendix A in line with the representations made

### 6.2

Authorise officers to implement the fees and charges as agreed under 6.1.1 or 6.1.2 above with effect from 1 April 2018.