

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee

Date 17 November 2015

Report of: Head of Environmental Health

Subject: AMENDMENT TO PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE
LICENSING DURATION AND FEES - OUTCOME OF
CONSULTATION

SUMMARY

To introduce 3 year licences for Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers and 5 year licences for Private Hire Operators and to set the level of fee for these licences.

RECOMMENDATION

- a) That the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences fees be set as detailed in Appendix A to this report and;
- b) That the fees be retrospectively applied to the 1st October 2015.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Deregulation Act 2015 received Royal Assent on 26 March 2015 with an implementation date of 1 October 2015 for the hackney carriage and private hire licensing elements. The whole Act consists of a raft of changes to many regulatory functions including two provisions that will affect taxi and private hire licensing.
2. Two key provisions are that hackney carriage and private hire driver's licences should be issued for 3 years and private hire operator licences for 5 years, unless there are reasons for not doing so.
3. At its meeting of the 22nd September 2015, this Committee agreed to the level of fees to be charged for the existing and new licence periods and agreed for these to be subject to the statutory consultation required under section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
4. The Committee also requested that any objections received as a result of the consultation be reported at the next meeting of the Committee on 17 November 2015.

CONSULTATION OUTCOME

5. On 6th October 2015 a notice was published in the Portsmouth News so as any person aggrieved by the proposed fee variations could within 30 days make an objection.
6. Although no other objections were received, the Hackney Carriage Association did query as to why the discount for a 3 year badge wasn't greater. It was explained that currently the effect of these changes is unknown in terms of costs versus income and that the situation would be monitored closely over the coming months/years.
7. The current licence fees are based on the overall cost of delivering the Hackney and Private Hire Service and the costs related to the work involved with each element.

RISK ASSESSMENT

8. There is a risk that if the fees are set too low the cost of the service will not be covered and could result in a cost to the Council, similarly if they were set too high the Council could be open to challenge as it may only recover the cost of providing the Service.

CONCLUSION

9. That the Committee confirm the level of fees as suggested at the meeting of 22nd September 2015, which are shown in Appendix A of this report and that they are retrospectively applied to the 1st October 2015.

Background Papers:

None

Reference Papers:

AMENDMENT TO PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENSING DURATION AND FEES REPORT to Licensing and Regulatory Committee 22nd September 2015.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Ian Rickman (Ext 4773).

Proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver and Operator fees

Licence type	Duration	Fee	Notes
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence	1 Year	£60	Current fee level
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence	3 Year	£155	
Dual Drivers Licence	1 Year	£60	
Dual Drivers Licence	3 Year	£155	
Private Hire Drivers Licence	1 Year	£60	Current fee level
Private Hire Drivers Licence	3 Year	£155	
Private Hire Operators Licence	1 Year	£185	Current fee level
Private Hire Operators Licence	3 year	£455	
Private Hire Operators Licence	5 Year	£825	