

Minutes of Licensing Committee

**Thursday 17th February 2022 at 9.15am
Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillor Allen (Chair);
Councillors Fenton, Z Hussain and R Jones.

Also present: Tracy Hubball (Licensing Service Manager);
David Elliott (Solicitor);
Trisha Newton (Senior Democratic Services Officer);
Amundeeep Johal (Democratic Services Officer).

1/22 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chidley, S Gill, Mabena and Webb.

2/22 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared at the meeting.

3/22 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.



Taxi Licensing Fees and Charges 2022-2023

Licensing authorities had a legal duty under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to review and set its Taxi Licensing fees. Taxi licence holders had requested a fee reduction. This request and further feedback provided by licence holders had informed a detailed Taxi service improvement plan which responded to requests for changes in service delivery and in turn where possible those improvements look to realise cost savings which may result in reduction to fees and charges.

The taxi licensing fees and charges formed part of a wider fees and charges report being taken to Cabinet on 23 February 2022. That report proposed that, by the analysis of the costs of issuing and administering the grant to any person of a licence, the taxi licensing fees and charges for 2022-2023 should remain unchanged.

A number of improvements had been identified by the licensing team. The fees and charges review would be revisited in 12 months to determine the impact of the improvements on those fees and charges based on the apportionment costs and would be reported back to the Licensing Committee.

Following questions by members clarification was provided in relation to:-

- only certain activities associated with the taxi licensing function could be apportioned to the fees, these were specifically outlined in the Act - the Local Authority financed the elements that the Act did not cover;
- the cost covered vehicle inspections undertaken;
- there were several online app-based model operators who were licensed to operate in the same way and were held accountable by the same standards, policy and conditions as attached to the licence;
- the licensing team had implemented a new licensing system, which would cover both taxi and general licensing. The system had been live from January 2022 and the customer portal allowed drivers to apply/reapply for their licence, pay fees, upload documentation with the application etc.



Resolved that the proposed fees and charges for Private Hire and Hackney Carriage licences be endorsed prior to submission to Cabinet for consideration.

Meeting ended at 9:47am

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