

**LICENSING COMMITTEE
24TH APRIL 2023**

PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Lowe)
The Vice Chair (Councillor Forrest)
Councillors Gerrard, Goddard, B. Gray, Howe,
Murphy, Needham, Ranson and Savage

Licensing Manager
Licensing Officer (RC)
Democratic Services Officer (SW)
Democratic Services Officer (LS)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Brookes and Popley

The Chair stated that the meeting would be recorded and the sound recording subsequently made available via the Council's website. He also advised that, under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting, and the use of any such images or sound recordings was not under the Council's control.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8th February 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, AND OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

No disclosures were made.

3. QUESTIONS UNDER OTHER COMMITTEE PROCEDURES 12.8

No questions had been submitted.

4. LICENSING FEES - HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES, DRIVERS AND PRIVATE HIRE OPERATORS

Considered, a report of the Interim Head of Regulatory and Community Safety to consider the objections and trade petition, received by the Licensing Authority, in relation to the statutory consultation on the proposed increase in fees related to hackney carriages and private hire vehicles (item 5 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Licensing Manager and the Licensing Officer assisted with consideration of the report.

Summary of discussion:

- (i) The number of Hackney Carriage, Private Hire, Driver and Operator Licences that the Council issued was outlined.
- (ii) Discussion regarding how both Uber and taxis licensed outside of Charnwood could operate in the Borough and the extent to which the Council could control/monitor that.
- (iii) Some difficulty with benchmarking charges as authorities could include differing elements within their fees, but of 9 comparable authorities, Charnwood approximately in the middle.
- (iv) Noted that fees had not increased since 2019. Also, that the proposed fees reflected the work undertaken by officers and remained competitive.

RESOLVED

1. that, having considered the objections received, the fees be amended as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
2. that the amended fees come into effect on 31st May 2023.

Reasons

1. The fees are increased under S70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) 1976. This requires the proposed fees to be advertised and any objections received to be considered.
2. If an objection(s) is not withdrawn, the district council is required to consider them and 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 district council, after consideration of the objections.

NOTES:

1. No reference may be made to these minutes at the next available Ordinary Council meeting unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on the fifth working day following publication of these minutes.
2. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Licensing Committee.