

**LICENSING
COMMITTEE**

24th June 2013

FEES AND CHARGES

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Steve Jordan – Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

To request authorisation to consult on proposed increases to the fees charged for hackney carriage vehicle licences and private hire vehicle and operator licences so that these increases can be implemented.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to RESOLVE;

That authority is given to the Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services to consult on the increases made to the fees charged for hackney carriage vehicle licences and private hire vehicle and operator licences and to implement the increased fees if no objections are received or if all objections received are withdrawn.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 All licensing fees and charges are set by Bromsgrove District Council and all licensing fees and charges are collected and retained by Bromsgrove District Council.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 In accordance with section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, where fees in respect of hackney carriage and private hire vehicle and operator licences are varied, this must be advertised before the increases can be implemented.

The increases must be advertised by way of publication of a public notice in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district. A copy of this notice must also be deposited at the offices of the council for a period of twenty-eight days from the date of the first publication and

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must be available for public inspection at all reasonable hours without payment.

Service / Operational Implications

3.3 Cabinet resolved on 22 February 2012 to approve an increase to the fees charged in respect of hackney carriage vehicle licences, private hire vehicle licences and private hire operator licences.

3.4 The existing fees charged for these licences are as follows:

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence (New/Renewal)	£298
Private Hire Vehicle Licence (New/Renewal)	£272
Private Hire Operator Licence (New/Renewal)	£282

3.5 The increased fees proposed are as follows:

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence (New/Renewal)	£307
Private Hire Vehicle Licence (New/Renewal)	£280
Private Hire Operator Licence (New/Renewal)	£290

3.6 This equates to an increase of approximately 3%.

3.7 Before these increases can be lawfully implemented they must be advertised in accordance with section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

3.8 Unfortunately, due to a communication error these proposed fees were not advertised after being approved by Cabinet in February 2012. As a result it has not been possible to charge the increased fees approved for Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences, Private Hire Vehicle Licences and Private Hire Operator Licences and the existing fees have continued to be charged to applicants.

3.9 Now that this error has been noticed, approval is being sought to advertise the proposed fees with a view to implementing them as soon as possible in order to rectify the situation.

3.10 If no objection to the increases is made during the consultation period, or if all objections so made are withdrawn, the increase will be implemented at the end of the consultation period or after the withdrawal of the objection or, if more than one, of the last objection, whichever date is the later.

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3.11 If objections to the increases are made and not withdrawn, the matter will need to be referred back to the Licensing Committee who will then need to set a further date on which the increased fees will come into force with or without modification as decided by the Members after consideration of the objections.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 Until such time as the increased fees have been consulted upon, they cannot be implemented.

5. APPENDICES

5.1 None

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