

Minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on Thursday, 15 November 2018 in Committee Rooms 1 & 2 - Deanes, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council at 6.30 pm

Members of the Licensing Committee in attendance: , Councillor D Leeks (Chair), Councillor P Frankum, Councillor R Gardiner, Councillor T Jones, Councillor D Putty, Councillor N Robinson and Councillor M Taylor

31/18 Apologies for absence and substitutions

Councillor D Taylor was replaced Councillor V Rowland.

The Vice-Chair Councillor Leeks chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chair, Councillor D Taylor.

32/18 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

33/18 Urgent matters

There were no urgent matters.

34/18 Minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9 July 2018 were confirmed by the committee as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

35/18 Licensing Fees and Charges

The Interim Regulatory Services Manager (IRSM) introduced the report which provided the Committee with the proposed fees and charges for approval that would be implemented from the 1st April 2019 following the conclusion of the consultation period.

The Chair invited public speaker Mr Mark Dinning to address the Committee, his comments included:

- Clarification was sought as to why the zero rated fee had not been introduced for the private hire vehicles.
- How did vehicles get replacement stickers in the period between vehicle tests.
- Would prefer that there was a yearly recalculation of the fees rather than an inflation increase.
- Would there be any improvements to the applications process in the near future.

The IRSM responded that:

- As the Hackney Carriages were driven primarily in and around the town centre, it would make the most impact to local air quality if they were to use electric vehicles as the scheme encouraged.
- The compliance centres would be able to issue replacement stickers between tests
- The Council would be purchasing an electronic application system and following the implementation of this, the fees and charges would be recalculated.

The Committee made a range of comments in regard to incentives for licensed drivers as members felt that the Council should be doing more to encourage the use of electric or more fuel efficient vehicles but recognised that this would result in cost implications for the Council.

Resolved: The Committee

- 1) approves the licensing fees and charges, which will apply from 1 April 2019.
- 2) agrees to publication of the consultation notice for the hackney carriage and private hire vehicles and private hire operator licenses.
- 3) If no public objections are received within the consultation period, or are later withdrawn then the Licensing Committee agrees to implement the fees and charges
- 4) delegates authority to the Licensing Team Leader to record the date upon which the hackney carriage and private hire vehicles and private hire operator licence fees come into operation.

36/18 **New regulations under the Animal Welfare Act 2016**

The Interim Regulatory Services Manager introduced the report which provided the Committee with a summary of the new animal welfare licensing requirements and set out the proposed fee structure in order to allow applications under the new regime to be accepted.

The Committee made reference to the qualifications that would now be required under the new regulations for those officers who would be carrying out inspections. The Committee questioned whether any officers currently held a relevant qualification and what the cost implication would be if they didn't.

The IRSM confirmed that currently no officers held a relevant qualification but there was a dispensation for those who had been carrying out the role for at least a year.

The IRSM also confirmed that that the Council had a two year period to train the necessary officers and that they would be looking to do this as soon as the training

costs had settled down.

Clarification was sought on the process for notifying those residents who would now require a licence.

Resolved: The Committee

- 1) notes the report
- 2) approves the fees which take effect from 16 November 2018.

37/18 **Matters dealt with by the Sub-Committee for noting**

The Committee notes the decision notices.

The meeting ended at 7.25 pm.

Chairman