

LICENSING COMMITTEE

23 March 2018 at 9.30 a.m.

Present : Councillors Cooper (Chairman), Wheal (Vice-Chairman), Cates, Clayden, Hitchins, Mrs Oakley, Patel, Purchase and Warren.

518. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs Bower, Mrs Daniells, Dillon and Oliver-Redgate.

519. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

520. MINUTES

The Chairman advised that the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Subcommittee held on 16 March 2018 had not been finalised and so were not available for consideration – they would be circulated to Members as soon as possible.

521. REVIEW OF THE FEES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCES AFTER CONSULTATION

The Licensing Officer presented this report which set out the detail of the proposed fees for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licences for 2018/19 following consultation and advertising within the District – no comments or objections had been received during the consultation period. For clarification and Members' information, an additional paper was circulated at the meeting setting out comparison figures with other Councils in West Sussex, together with a more detailed schedule of proposed fees for 2018/19.

In the course of discussion, clarification was sought as to why it was deemed necessary to alter the fees by such minimal amounts in some cases as it would surely be more cost effective for there to be no change? The Group Head of Technical Services was able to advise that, following an ongoing annual review of the fees, the Council could only charge what was cost recoverable and that was the reason for minimal changes in some instances.

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Following consideration, the Committee

**RESOLVED**

That the fees be agreed as set out at Section 2 of the report, to come into effect from 1 April 2018.

**522. REVIEW OF THE FARE STRUCTURE FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES AFTER CONSULTATION**

As the fares charged to customers using hackney carriages (taxis) were reviewed and set annually, the Licensing Officer presented this report which set out the detail of a proposed increase to the fare structure for the year 2018/19. Additional information was circulated at the meeting to assist the Committee with its deliberations.

In discussing the matter, clarification was sought and given on the proposed increase and, in addition, comment was made that it must be made clear that assistance dogs could also be carried free of charge, as in the case of guide dogs.

Following consideration, the Licensing Team was commended for its work on setting the fares and, as no responses or comments had been received, the Committee

**RESOLVED**

That the fare structure, as advertised, be agreed, to come into effect from 1 April 2018.

(The meeting concluded at 10.03 a.m.)