

REVIEW OF LICENCE AND REGISTRATION FEES 2024/5

MEETING: APPEALS AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE

DATE: 29 NOVEMBER 2023

REPORT BY: LICENSING MANAGER

WARDS: ALL

COMMUNITY FORUMS: ALL

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval for revised licence and registration fees for 2024/25.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

Approval is given to an increase in fees and charges as outlined in Appendix A from 1 April 2024.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 In accordance with the Council's financial regulations it is necessary for all fees to be annually reviewed.

3.2 The services relate to the regulation, control and administration of the following areas:

- Private Hire and Hackney Carriage fees;
- Scrap Metal collectors and sites;
- Miscellaneous licensing fees.

3.3 Fees for the Licensing Act 2003 are set nationally and cannot be altered by the Council.

3.4 Fees under the Gambling Act and for sexual entertainment venues are considered by the Licensing committee.

- 3.5 Members are reminded that these are statutory services and as such are not subject to market forces. The Council has discretion about the setting of fees.
- 3.6 The proposed increases are in line with the current level of inflation at 7%.

4.0 **SCOPE**

- 4.1 An increase is required for all fees and charges in the current circumstances. A summary of proposed fees is provided at Appendix A, which sets out the fees and charges that were agreed in 2023/24 and the proposed increase; the figures have been rounded up or down to assist with cash handling.
- 4.2 Legal precedents dictate that licensing authorities should not make a profit from the delivery of these services. The proposed increases will maintain a cost-neutral position.

5.0 **EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS**

- 5.1 In December 2022 members decided to retain the limit of 110 hackney carriages. The committee also decided to commission another unmet demand survey in 2025, the survey to be funded by hackney carriage licence holders, for which licence holders are charged £10 at each six-month renewal.
- 5.2 The consumable licensing items are subject to price changes by our supplier. Appendix A shows the costs recharged on the current stock but prices will be adjusted when suppliers alter the costs to us.
- 5.3 Appendix B shows the comparison of taxi and private hire fees within Derbyshire but does not indicate what increase, if any, those authorities are proposing.

6.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 At present these budgets have averaged out to where there is a growing deficit, an increase in line with those proposed at appendix A will move them closer to being cost-neutral.

7.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 Approval is given to an increase in fees and charges as outlined in Appendix A from 1 April 2024.

Further information on this report can be obtained from the licensing manager, Trevor Durham at trevor.durham@chesterfield.gov.uk