

MINUTES OF: LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 22nd February 2022

**Present: Councillor Gill (Chair)
Councillors Stevens, S Barnes, Johnson, Rigby (Subbing for
Cllr Steen), Woods, Haworth, Whitehead and Adshead.**

**In Attendance: Phil Morton, Public Protection Manager
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal (Monitoring Officer)**

Also Present: 1 member of the press joined remotely

BUSINESS MATTERS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Cllr Steen (Cllr Rigby subbing)

2. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on the 19th October 2021 approved as a correct record.

3. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Resolved:

That there were no minutes of the Driver Sub-Committee meetings to approve.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

6. TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCE FEES

The Public Protection Manager introduced the report. To consider the report and, subject to the required consultation approve the revised fees. A second recommendation was put forward as follows:

That in the event of objections, it be delegated to PPU Manager and Chair of Licensing and Portfolio Holder to consider the objections and set a second date for the variation to come into force.

Discussion took place on the item as summarised below:

- Confirmation of not making a profit
- How does it compare to other local authorities
- Why do we not increase incrementally in line with inflation
- When and how do we review fees and surplus
- Impact on the increase on fees on drivers following Covid
- Subsidising the costs to the trade
- Charges for clean air zone/ congestion charge
- These are the costs of the service and we do have to deal with this

In response to questions raised, the Public Protection Manager advised that:

- Confirmed that any profit needs to be reflected in future years in the same way as we have done previously eg reduction of fees, subsidising CCTV systems
- The fees are not subject to local benchmarking as it is based on a cost analysis but some comparatives were given
- Cannot deal with increase by inflation
- Outlined details of our compliant fleet and impact on congestion charge
- Upper age limit on vehicles may see non-compliant vehicles drop off our fleet
- Reminded fee remission for electric and plug in cars and may look at self-charging hybrids

It was moved and seconded to defer this item until next year but this was not carried.

Members voted on approval to the revised fees subject to the required consultation and delegated matters as set out above in the event of objections being received.

For	Against	Abstain
6	3	0

Resolved:

That the Licensing Committee granted approval to the revised fees subject to the required consultation. That in the event of objections, it be delegated to PPU Manager and Chair of Licensing and Portfolio Holder to consider the objections and set a second date for the variation to come into force.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed 7.05pm.

CHAIR: _____