

REPORT TO	ON
GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE	13 JUNE 2017

Jan 2017



TITLE	AUTHOR	Agenda item No.
LICENSING FEES AND CHARGES (HACKNEY CARRIAGE / PRIVATE HIRE)	PETER HAYWOOD	

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update members on the outcome of the recent consultation on the proposed increase in Licensing fees for Hackney Carriage / Private Hire drivers and vehicles, as a result of which new charges came into effect from 1 May 2017.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to:

- 2.1 note the absence of responses to the formal consultation exercise on fee increases; and
- 2.2 note the increased fee levels which as a result came into effect from 1 May 2017.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The report relates to the following corporate priorities

Clean, green and safe		Strong and healthy communities	
Strong South Ribble in the heart of prosperous Lancashire		Efficient, effective and exceptional council	X

4. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 4.1 On 21 March 2017, General Licensing Committee received a report which outlined details of a proposed increase for Licensing fees (Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers as well as vehicles). Details of the proposed new levels of fees and charges are set out in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 Members agreed that the report should be subject to a consultation exercise, the outcome of which should be brought before them on 13 June 2017 for further consideration. The next steps to be taken would depend on the consultation responses received. Should there be no submissions as part of the consultation exercise, the new fees would automatically come into effect from 1 May. (In practice this would be from Tuesday 2 May due to Council offices being closed for the Bank Holiday on 1 May). If consultation responses were received, these would be reported to the Committee at its meeting on 13 June 2017 (when members would need to make a decision on whether to proceed with adoption of the new fee levels).

5. CONSULTATION EXERCISE

- 5.1 The report submitted to General Licensing Committee on 21 March 2017 set out a detailed timetable for adoption of the revised fees and the procedural steps which needed to be addressed. On 28 March 2017, as previously agreed by Committee, the required written notice appeared in the Lancashire Evening Post; a copy of this advertisement can be produced if required. The notice stipulated that any responses to the proposed revised fees should be submitted to South Ribble Borough Council no later than 25 April 2017.
- 5.2 By 5pm on 25 April 2017, no responses to the consultation exercise had been received.

6. NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 Given that no responses to the consultation exercise were submitted, the proposed new fee levels for 2017/18 (as set out in Appendix 1) automatically came into force on 1 May with immediate effect.

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None – by agreeing at its meeting on 21 March 2017 to undertake a consultation exercise on the proposed fee levels, to which no responses were received, the Committee has triggered the process which has resulted in the automatic introduction of the new fees from 1 May 2017.

8. WIDER IMPLICATIONS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION

8.1 Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

The revised fees and charges for 2017/18 have been set at a level to recover revenue costs associated with the issue of taxi licenses, administration and enforcement costs.

8.2 Comments of the Monitoring Officer

As there were no responses to the consultation, as agreed by the General Licensing Committee on the 21st March 2017, the revised fees automatically came into effect on the 1st May 2017.

Other implications:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Risk	The Council is obliged to reconsider its fees on a regular basis in order to ensure that it covers its administrative costs and does not make any excess income. The revised charges reflect the additional resource that will be placed in Licensing over the coming year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equality	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HR	None

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (or there are no background papers to this report)

Appendix 1 – proposed fee levels from 1 May 2017