

Minutes of the meeting of the REGULATORY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2019 at 6.40 pm

Present: Councillor Legg (Chair)
Councillors Bowyer, Cryer-Whitehead, Marlow, Miles, Small, Trendall and Wallis

Officers: N Allen (Head of Regulatory Services), J Agar (Taxi Licensing Manager), P Cummins (Head of Legal Services), S Teesdale (Licensing and Business Manager) and J Crighton (Committee Manager)

Also Present: 1 member of the public

Apologies: Councillors Alexander, Carr, Green, Lancaster and Williams

RC11 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED -

That Councillor Marlow be appointed Vice-Chair of the Regulatory Committee for the remainder of the Council year 2019/20.

RC12 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Regulatory Committee held on 11 September 2019 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

RC13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None disclosed.

RC14 REVIEW OF TAXI FEES AND CHARGES

The Committee considered a report from the Taxi Licensing Manager on the review of taxi fees and charges.

The Committee noted that the last review had been undertaken in 2016, at which time a 25% licensing fee increase had been implemented. This had resulted in a significant reduction of licence holders as many drivers had sourced cheaper licences from neighbouring Councils. As a result, licensing fees had been adjusted

by the Committee in May 2017 to reflect policy changes and to attract licence holders to return to the Council.

The Committee noted that a 2.5% licensing fee increase had been approved in December 2018, subject to the proposed increase being advertised and any representations considered. 31 objections had been received and, taking account of the licensing fees charged by other Councils, it was agreed not to implement the increase as there had been concern this would, again, encourage drivers to seek licenses with neighbouring Councils.

The Committee noted that a 2.1% increase had been suggested for 2020/21 and, if the Committee agreed to change the level of fees, an advert would need to be placed in a local newspaper to enable representations to be made.

RESOLVED -

1. That the fees, showing a 2.1% increase, be advertised in accordance with Section 70 of the Act of 1976.
2. That the fees under Section 53 (Drivers) of the Act of 1976 take effect from 1 April 2020 once all objections (if received) are considered.
3. That Cabinet be recommended to adopt the fees under Section 70 (Vehicles and Operators) and to take effect from 1 April 2020 once all objections (if received) are considered.

RC15

REGULATORY FEES AND CHARGES

The Committee received a report from the Head of Regulatory Services on Regulatory fees and charges.

It was noted that, at its meeting held on 11 September 2019 (Minute RC07 refers), the Committee had recommended that the Council adopt the fees and charges for Regulatory Services for 2020/21. Since making the recommendation and prior to consideration by Council, it was identified that the fees schedule had not been fully updated; therefore, the recommendation was withdrawn at the Council meeting.

The Committee noted that the revised fees schedule suggested an increase of 3% to cover increases in staffing costs and overheads.

RESOLVED -

1. That the proposed fees and charges be endorsed and recommended to Council for adoption.
2. That the next annual review of fees and charges take place in September 2020.

RC16

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Regulatory Committee would be held on Wednesday 11 March 2020 at 6.35 pm or on the conclusion of the Licensing Committee, whichever was the later.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 6.53 PM