

<b>LICENSING COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
<b>18 JULY 2013</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Marco Cereste – Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Housing, Economic Development and Business Engagement	
Contact Officer(s):	Adrian Day, Licensing Manager	Tel. 454437

## TAXI LICENSING FEES INCREASE

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
<b>FROM:</b> Adrian Day, Licensing Manager	<b>Deadline date :</b> N/A
That the Committee notes the contents of the report and sets a further date on which the variation to taxi licensing fees, with or without modification, is to take effect having had due regard to representations received.	

### 1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to the Committee in accordance with the statutory requirement under section 70 paragraph 3(a) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

### 2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the background information surrounding the proposed increase in taxi licensing fees.
- 2.2 The purpose of this report is also to provide Members with the details of representations received during the statutory notice period for the increase of taxi licensing fees.
- 2.3 To ask Members to note the contents of the report and consider the representations received and to set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date (01 August 2013), on which the variation shall come into force with or without modification.
- 2.4 This report is for the Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.4.1.3 (a) "To exercise the functions of the authority as listed in Schedule 2.4.4, where these are not delegated to officers as listed at section 2.4.3, namely", "hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licensing".

### 3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>
---	-----------

### 4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 ("the Act") sets out the procedure for increasing the fees for vehicle and operators' licences and any other sums as determined by the council.

- 4.2 The fees charged by the council should be sufficient to cover the service provided and must not result in a profit.
- 4.3 A report (attached at **Appendix A**) produced by the council's finance team sets out the profit and loss for taxi licensing for year 2012/13. The department is actually running on a deficit of nearly £35K.
- 4.4 The only way to address the deficit within taxi licensing is to increase the income brought in, as may not be used from elsewhere, thus since there has not been an increase in taxi licensing fees since 2009 one has been proposed as appropriate.
- 4.5 Also since the last fee increase an internal review of the service took place which identified there were a number of areas within the regime that were not sufficiently covered by the current fees charged therefore considered was necessary to adjust and in some cases add new charges e.g. administration fee to a DBS check.
- 4.6 A schedule of the proposed taxi licensing fees has been included in this report (attached at **Appendix B**).

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 In accordance with sec.70 para 3(a) of the Act a statutory notice was placed in the Peterborough Telegraph on 20 June 2013 setting out the proposed changes and the manner in which objections can be made.
- 5.2 A notice was also made available to view within the customer area of Bayard Place for a period of 28 days from the date of the first publication.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES**

- 6.1 It is anticipated that a further date will be set for the proposed variation of fees with or without modification.

## **7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 Statutory requirement.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 In order to address the deficit where an increase is not agreed the option is to go forward with staff redundancy which would result in a reduced level of service to both the licensed trade and members of the public and would have an adverse effect on public safety.

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Corporate Resources

Financial – There are costs associated with public consultation.

Legal – Legal Services will be required to ensure that the decision making process is implemented in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976