

## **Regulation and Review Committee**

**6 August 2015**

Present: Councillor K Osborne (Chair)  
Councillors G Madden, D McMeekan, T Mulvenna and J O'Shea

Councillor J Munby (via Skype) (non voting capacity)

Also in attendance Councillors A Percy and M Reynolds

### **RQ28/8/15 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors A Arkle, A Austin, G Bell, L Bell and D McGarr.

### **RQ29/8/15 Substitute Members**

There were no substitutes reported.

### **RQ30/8/15 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.

### **RQ31/8/15 Introduction of New Fees and Charges for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Scheme**

The committee considered a report which set out proposals to introduce new fees and charges in respect of applications for the grant of hackney carriage and private hire driver's licenses and private hire operator's licences as a result of the Deregulation Act 2015.

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 permitted local authorities to set fees for the grant of licenses for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles and drivers and for private hire operators in their area. The legislation allowed the local authority to recover its costs in providing a licensing scheme but required that such costs must be reasonable. It was explained that the Taxi licensing service was self financing via a ring fenced trading account.

The taxi licensing aspects of the Deregulation Act 2015 would have effect from 1 October 2015. The new legislation required that hackney carriage and private hire driver's licences should be granted for a 3 year period, currently one year in North Tyneside, unless there were individual circumstances which would warrant a shorter period. The Act also amended the operator licence period to 5 years, currently one year in North Tyneside, unless there were individual circumstances which would warrant a shorter period.

It was explained that the current schedule of fees and charges had been introduced following a review of the costs associated with providing the licensing service. It was noted that a review of all the fees and charges was currently being carried out and would be reported to elected members at a later date. In the meantime an exercise had been carried out to review the current schedule of fees and charges to determine a fee for the grant of a hackney carriage or private hire driver's licence and the grant of a private hire operator's

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licence. These fees were based on the application fee being levied once and the remaining elements of the licence fee being applied 3 times and 5 times in respect of the operator's licence. This equated to:

New Driver (3 year licence)	£190
Renewal Driver (3 year licence)	£160
New Driver (2 year licence)	£150
Renewal Driver (2 year licence)	£120

The current fees for a driver's licence were £100 for a new driver and £70 for a renewal.

New operator (5 year licence)	£2150
Renewal operator (5 year licence)	£2020

The current fees for an operator licence were £493 for a new licence and £479 for a renewal.

It was explained that changes to the fees for an operator's licence were required to be advertised in a local newspaper giving objectors to the amended fees 28 days in which to lodge their objections. Whilst there was no need to formally advertise the changes to the fees for a driver licence it had been considered that, on the grounds of transparency, the changes to the drivers licence fees should be advertised at the same time.

If no objections were received then the new fees would come into effect on the 1 October 2015. If objections were received they would be referred back to this Committee for consideration.

**Resolved** that (1) the proposed amendments to the fees schedule outlined above be approved and formally advertised; and  
(2) if any objections to the amendments to the fees schedule are received they will be referred to a future meeting of the committee for consideration.