

## **EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

At a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 10 February 2020

Present

Councillor: B Moulard (Chairman)

Councillors: D Ashcroft (Vice-Chairman), K Budden, K Carter, A Glass, G Hill, M Johnson, C Louisson and P Wigman (Reserve)

### **11 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors T Denton, S Dolan, T Maroney, R Platt, R Standish, N Taylor and I Thomas.

### **12 Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's Announcements.

### **13 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **14 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 16 November 2018, and the sub-committees held at 10am on 21 January 2019, 2pm on 21 January 2019, 15 February 2019, 29 March 2019 and 12 April 2019 were signed and agreed as correct records.

### **15 Prices for Taxi and Private Hire Licensing**

The Environmental Health Manager (Food, Safety and Licensing) introduced the report and confirmed that a new pricing model had been used to calculate the fees. It was important to ensure that prices were legally robust and that pricing was transparent. The changes proposed would accurately recover the costs incurred and that the council was legally allowed to include.

On page 5, the row 'Exemption Certificate' should have the 'FY to FY % variation' column amended from -4% to +4%.

On Page 6, the row 'Number plate bracket' should have the column 'Proposed prices 2020/21 (£)' amended from 3.80 to 21.60.

It was noted that on page 6, the column for 'Driver – renewal – 1 year' had increased substantially. In response, the Environmental Health Manager advised that there had been a five-year gap from when the prices were last reviewed. When using the new model, officers had gone through each step of processing the various licences in order to determine the time taken. A large

proportion of the processing of a three-year licence was the same for a one-year licence

In response to a question raised as to what would happen if objections were to be received as part of the consultation exercise, officers confirmed that they would work through with individuals to resolve any issues but if that was not possible, it would be brought back to the Licensing Committee for further comments.

There was a discussion around electric vehicles and whether they would be charged lower rates. Officers said that the process of issuing the licence for an electric vehicle would be no different however, they were aware of some authorities having a lower charge and encouraging a move towards electric vehicles. This was something that officers at EHDC were investigating in line with policies. There were various initiatives all over the country, however, there would need to be better infrastructure for charging points.

In response to a question on when prices would next be reviewed, the Environmental Health Manager said that once the pricing model was in place, it could be reviewed on an annual basis.

In response to a request from the committee, the Environmental Health Manager agreed to write to the East Hampshire Taxi Association to outline the proposed fee structure.

Following the discussion, it was RESOLVED that:

- a) The charges as shown at Appendix 1 are approved for consultation;
- b) That the necessary advertisement be placed; and
- c) If no representations are received in response to the consultation, the new charges be recommended at Full Council on 14 May 2020 and be implemented for the remainder of the financial year 2020/21.

**The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 10.43 am**