

EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 21 November 2014

Present

Councillor: R Ayer (Chairman)

Councillors: A Glass, M Johnson MBE, B Moulard, A Muldoon, D Phillips,
R Saunders and I Thomas

1 Election of Chairman

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman it was RESOLVED that Cllr R Ayer be elected Chairman for the meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors K Carter, M Harvey, J Onslow, G Stacpoole and C Wherrell.

3 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committees held at 10am on 21 December 2012, 11.30am on 21 December 2012, 17 May 2013, 5 December 2013, 10am on 18 December 2013, 1pm on 18 December 2013, 6 June 2014 and 4 September 2014 were signed and agreed as correct records.

4 Chairman's Announcements

There were no chairman's announcements.

5 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

6 Charges for Taxi and Private Hire Licensing for 2015/2016

The Licensing Team Leader introduced the report and confirmed that a great deal of work had been undertaken to arrive at the proposed fees in order for them to accurately recover the costs incurred. Legislation prohibited the service from making a profit on processing licence applications.

In response to questions it was explained that the fees and charges should be reviewed annually, therefore no percentage increase to cover possible increases in staff pay had been included. The intention was to carry any surplus or deficit forward to the following year.

Whilst an increase in new driver and driver licence renewals was proposed, this would be offset by a reduction in vehicle licence costs. A driver with a single vehicle would be £6.60 a year better off, whilst larger operators would realise a greater saving.

The Licensing Team Leader confirmed that to comply with legislation, an advert inviting comments from the public would be placed in the Hampshire Independent newspaper for 28 days. The new charges would take effect from 1 April 2015 if there were no objections, or if any objections were withdrawn. If there were objections, the Licensing Committee would hear them at a meeting on 13 January 2015.

In response to a request from the committee, the Licensing Team Leader agreed to write to the East Hampshire Taxi Association to outline the proposed fee structure.

Following the discussion it was RESOLVED that:

- (i) The charges as shown in Appendix I to the report be approved for consultation;
- (ii) The necessary advertisements be placed; and
- (iii) In the event that no representations are received in response to the consultation, the new charges be implemented for the financial year commencing 1 April 2015.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 10.36 am

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Chairman