



FULL COUNCIL REPORT

Date Written	27 th May 2016
Report Author	Paul Lewis
Service Area	Trading Standards and Licensing
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	15 th June 2016

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

TAXI LICENSING FEES

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

1.1 On the 20th April 2016 Council moved to propose that as part of the Council's Change Management Programme Income generation project Taxi Licensing Fees should increase from its current fee structure.

1.2 The proposal was:

- Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver fees to increase from the current fee of £150 for a new application and £130 for a renewal application to £272 for a new application to £230 for a renewal. Drivers Licenses are for a three year period.
- Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles fees to increase from £75 to £115 for 16/17 moving to £154 from 17/18.

1.3 In line with the requirements of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 a 28 day consultation of the proposed fees has been undertaken.

1.4 7 responses were received to the consultation 4 respondents supported the proposal with 3 against.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S) that

2.1 The responses to the consultation exercise be considered.

2.2 The new proposed fee structure proposed on the 20th April 2016 effective from 1st July 2016 be implemented.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 permits Local Authorities to levy a fee for the administrative duties involved with the licensing of drivers, vehicles and operators involved in the provision of hackney carriage and private hire services.
- 3.2 As part of the Authorities change programme concerning income generation a review of current taxi licensing fees was undertaken. It was identified that full cost recovery in relation to the licensing of drivers and vehicles was not being achieved.
- 3.3 On the 20th April 2016 Council proposed a new fee structure of:
- Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver fees to increase from the current fee of £150 for a new application and £130 for a renewal application to £272 for a new application to £230 for a renewal. Drivers Licenses are for a three year period.
 - Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles fees to increase from £75 to £115 for 16/17 moving to £154 from 17/18.
- 3.4 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 requires that where a change to the fee for the licensing of vehicles is proposed there should be a 28 day period of consultation. It was decided to also consult on the proposed increase to drivers fees during this period.
- 3.5 The consultation period took place between the 27th April until the 26th May 2016. The statutory notice was advertised in local press and displayed at the Civic Centre. Representations could be made in writing or online via the Cwm Taf Consultation Hub. In addition 229 letters were sent to drivers and vehicle proprietors outlining the proposals and inviting representations which could be made online via the consultation hub or in writing to the Trading Standards and Licensing manager.
- 3.6 At the conclusion of the consultation period no written correspondence was received and there were 7 responses received via the Cwm Taf Consultation Hub. (Appendix 1). The responses were as follow:
- 4 were in favour of the proposal. (57.4%)
- 3 were against the proposal. (42.86%)
- 3.7 One comment was also received via the Consultation Hub which stated "Why make people who just about make a living from taxi driving pay for the faults of the council, if you want to save money cut councilors pay, they don't earn it, cut the amount of vehicle's the council lease that are not needed(why send two or three vehicles to the same job with one man in each),stop paying for stupid litter wardens"

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

4.1 Increasing the driver's fee will have a relatively small financial impact in 16/17 & 17/18, as our current drivers do not need to renew until 18/19 (£1k in 16/17, £2k in 17/18, and £10k in 18/19). Increasing the vehicle fee would generate an additional £16k per year. If as proposed that the vehicle fee increase be phased as follows - increase of £40 to £115 for 2016/17 and by a further £39 to £154 for 2017/18, additional income of £8,000.

5.0 SINGLE INTEGRATED PLAN AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT SUMMARY

5.1 The introduction of the new fee structure would have a positive effect on the Financial Sustainability of Public Services. There is a potential threat that individuals may trade without licences which would be mitigated by enforcement action where intelligence of activities take place.

6.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full assessment is not required at this time. The form can be accessed on the Council's website/intranet via the 'Equality Impact Assessment' link.

ELLIS COOPER
CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE AND
TRANSFORMATION

COUNCILLOR CHRIS BARRY
PORTFOLIO MEMBER FOR
REGENERATION, PLANNING AND
COUNTRYSIDE

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
MTCBC Change Programme Report to Full Council	20 th April 2016	Online
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.