

## BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Report of:** Craig Fowler – Environmental Health and Licensing Manager

**To:** Licensing Committee – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Author:** Josie Hoven – Senior Licensing Officer

**Subject:** Review of Taxi Licensing Fees

**Purpose:** To review the responses to the consultation on taxi licence fees and make recommendation to the Portfolio Holder/Cabinet.

### **Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Licensing Committee review the responses received on the proposed increase in taxi licensing fees and make a recommendation to the Portfolio Holder/Cabinet on the proposed increase.

### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 On 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 the Licensing Committee were advised in a verbal update from the Environmental Health & Licensing Manager on a proposed increase to most licence fees , including taxi licence fees, of 6.5% due to inflationary costs. The manager advised that the proposed increase would be advertised in accordance with the regulations and that those licensed in the Breckland taxi trade would be contacted by the team.
- 1.2 Notice of the proposed variation to the taxi licence fees has been advertised in accordance with Section 70 of The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. A newspaper notice was published on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 in the Eastern Daily Press and the same public notice was displayed at the Council offices from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023. A copy of the notice is attached as Appendix A.
- 1.3 The trade was contacted via email on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to seek their views on the proposed increases to taxi licence fees. A copy of the email is attached as Appendix B. Please note there was an error in the table of proposed fees for Private Hire Operator which should have read £440 not £444.
- 1.4 Fourteen responses were received from the taxi trade. The responses are attached as Appendix C. No comments or objections were received from the public.
- 1.5 The Licensing Committee are asked to consider the responses received and make recommendation to the Portfolio Holder/Cabinet.

### **3.0 OPTIONS**

The committee may after consideration of the responses to the consultation make a recommendation on the taxi fee increase to the Portfolio Holder/Cabinet. The Committee may:

- 1) Recommend the advertised increased fees;- or

2) Recommend an alternative to the advertised fees

### 3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 Now that the formal notification and consultation has taken place the Council must decide on the fees in accordance with the relevant sections of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 – it cannot choose to do nothing.

### 4.0 EXPECTED BENEFITS

4.1 The Council will receive the full cost of granting, renewing and maintaining compliance of the taxi licensing function with no cost to the taxpayer.

### 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

In preparing this report, the report author has considered the likely implications of the decision - particularly in terms of Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues; Constitutional & Legal; Contracts; Corporate Priorities; Crime & Disorder; Data Protection; Equality & Diversity/Human Rights; Financial; Health & Wellbeing; Reputation; Risk Management; Safeguarding; Staffing; Stakeholders/Consultation/Timescales; Other. Where the report author considers that there may be implications under one or more of these headings, these are identified below.

#### **Constitution & Legal**

Notice of the proposed variation to fees has been advertised in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

#### **Data Protection**

Data Protection forms a part of the licensing process and is carried out in line with the current data protection policy.

### 6.0 WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED

6.1 All

### 7.0 ACRONYMS

None

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Background papers:- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1976/57>

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#### **Lead Contact Officer**

Name and Post: Craig Fowler – Environmental Health and Licensing Manager  
Telephone Number: 01362 656870  
Email: Licensingteam@breckland.gov.uk

**Key Decision:** Yes

**Exempt Decision:** No

**This report refers to a Mandatory Service**

**Appendices attached to this report:**

Appendix A	Copy of Notice published in newspaper and at Council office
Appendix B	Copy of email and attachment sent to Taxi trade
Appendix C	Copies of representations received to consultation