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Our Ref./Ein Cyf.
Your Ref./Eich Cyf.
Contact:/Cysylltwch â:

THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

2nd September, 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE

A meeting of the General Licensing Committee will be held Via MS Teams (if you would like to view this meeting please contact leeann.turner@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk) on Thursday, 22nd September, 2022 at 10.00 am.

Yours faithfully

Damien McCann
Interim Chief Executive

AGENDA

Pages

1. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION

You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

2. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for absence.

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn cyfathrebu gyda chi yn eich dewis iaith, dim ond i chi rhoi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

To receive any declarations of interest or dispensations.

4. **NON-STATUTORY LICENCE FEES 2022/23**

3 - 10

To consider report of the Service Manager, Public Protection.

5. **EXEMPT**

To receive and consider the following report which in the opinion of the proper officer is/are an exempt item taking into account consideration of the public interest test and that the press and public should be excluded from the meeting (the reason for the decision for the exemption is available on a schedule maintained by the proper officer).

6. **SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCES**

11 - 12

To consider report of the Senior Licensing Officer.

To: Councillor L. Winnett
Councillor D. Bevan
Councillor S. Behr
Councillor M. Cross
Councillor G. A. Davies
Councillor J. Gardner
Councillor G. Humphreys
Councillor L. Parsons
Councillor D. Rowberry
Councillor G. Thomas
Councillor D. Woods

All other Members (for information)
Interim Chief Executive
Chief Officers

Agenda Item 4

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: General Licensing Committee

Date of meeting: 12th September 2022

Report Subject: Non-Statutory Licence Fees 2022/23

Portfolio Holder: General Licensing Committee

Report Submitted by: David Thompson, Service Manager – Public Protection

Report Written by: Steve Osborne, Team Manager – Trading Standards and Licensing

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	General Licensing Committee
23.8.22	1.9.22							12.9.22

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To inform members of the proposed licence fees for 2022/23 in respect of taxis, scrap metal, street trading and sex establishments, which are determined under the Constitution by the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Community Services, subject to scrutiny by General Licensing Committee. As the Director's post is currently vacant, temporary arrangements have been put in place for decision making to be undertaken by the Interim Chief Executive

2. Scope and Background

2.1 Members will be acutely aware of the pressures placed upon businesses during the global pandemic. As services are struggling to recover from this, a cost of living crisis has developed, further hitting the businesses through increased energy costs and inflationary pressures. In these difficult and challenging times for both businesses and the wider public and having regard to the budget setting cycle, the Corporate Leadership Team have been consulted and proposed that the fees outlined in this report are unchanged at this time. This option would see fees levels for 2022//23 remaining at the level agreed for 2021/22 as shown in **Appendix 1** (Scrap Metal, Street Trading and

Sex Establishments) and **Appendix 2** (Taxi Licensing), carried forward into 2022/23.

2.2 Whilst it is usual for a consultation period to be undertaken on fee increases, it is not considered necessary to consult where there is no proposal to change the fees.

2.3 A review of all fees will commence again in Autumn 2022 for the 2023/24 financial year, to bring this in line with budget setting cycle for next year. The costings for the Licenses are prepared at a point in time, and we anticipate an increase in direct costs post pandemic, and we acknowledge a pay award for 2022/23.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 Members are asked to :

Option 1 - Support the content of the report and make any comments as necessary for future consideration going forward.

3.2 Option 2 - Not support the report and make any comments as necessary for future consideration going forward.

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

4.1 Links to the Corporate Plan and the Well-being plan are covered in any reports implementing or varying any area of work delivered by the Licensing Team, and there are therefore no direct links to this report.

4.2 These fees relate to businesses, and form just a small part of the overall costs borne by those businesses. There are therefore no well-being implications.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 Budgetary implications – there is a balance to be reached between funding services in order to protect public safety, and supporting businesses and others who depend on licences for their livelihoods.

5.2 In times of increasing local authority austerity, fees are an important element of local authority income. The fees were calculated based upon principles of cost recovery at that time of being set. The financial implications will need to be supported by the budget pressures process. Where a surplus arises, this will be factored in to future fee calculations.

- 5.3 The specific fees outlined in this report relate to licenses that vary in duration covering 1, 3 and 5 years. On average, these fees generate a net income level of £52,983 (made up of Hackney Carriages - £41,481, Private Hire Vehicles - £3,628, Scrap Metal - £1,366.84, and Street Trading – 6,507.91). This average income level will remain unchanged as a result of this report.
- 5.4 It is likely that the matters outlined in this report will contribute to a small net cost pressure on the Licensing Portfolio of £3,000 based on the total current income forecasts for 2022/23. CLT has agreed that this cost pressure would be managed from within the wider Environment & Regeneration budget as far as practicable. If this is not possible, then any shortfall would be funded by a contribution from the Covid reserve at the end of the financial year.
- 5.5 Reputational risk – The preferred option could give rise to criticism that fee levels have not fully recovered costs of the service. This needs to be balanced against the unprecedented pressures on the trade and Authority post global pandemic and during a cost of living crisis.
- 5.6 Legal implications – this report refers to statutory powers and responsibilities of the authority and, providing legislative and statutory processes are followed and evidenced, there should be no significant legal impacts arising.
- 5.7 Resources – The global pandemic has placed the Authority under unprecedented pressures requiring flexibility from staff to help bolster the response to the pandemic while maintaining essential services such as taxi licensing.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

- 6.1 Supporting evidence to justify 2021/22 fee levels were considered when these fees were set. No new evidence is put forward at this stage as no changes are proposed in this report.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 Any licence fees will be subject to annual review, reporting to the Licensing Committee as appropriate.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1976/57/section/65>

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APPENDIX 1 – Scrap Metal, Sex Establishment & Street Trading Fees 2022/23

Scrap Metal Fees

	COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 4	COLUMN 5
	Caerphilly 2021/22 Not currently under review	Monmouth For 2022/23 approved	Torfaen 2022/23 Approved 10.2.2022	Merthyr Current fee not currently under or due for review	BGCBC current and proposed fees for 2022/23
SCRAP METAL COLLECTOR					
New Licence Application	£311	£451	£362.47	£226	£368.26
Renewal Application	£311	£312	£358.16	£210	£349.36
SCRAP METAL SITE					
New Licence Application	£436	£448	£559.84	£327	£482.56
Renewal Application	£426	£373	£496.39	£288	£334.06
OTHER					
Change of Site Manager	£53	£38	Not specified	Not specified	£35.60
Replacement Licence	No fee specified	No fee specified	Not specified	Not specified	£27.00

Sex Establishment Fees

	COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 4	COLUMN 5
	Caerphilly 2021/22 fees Currently not under review	Monmouth For 2022/23 approved	Torfaen 2022/23 Approved 10.2.2022	Merthyr Current fee not currently under or due for review	BGCBC current and proposed fees 2022/23
Application Activity					
New Licence Application	£1161	£453	£1280.30	£1300	£612.42
Renewal Application	£600	£164	£1011.03	£100	£410.82
Transfer of Licence	£600	£453	£715.02		£601.62

Street Trading Fees

	Column 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 4	COLUMN 5
	Caerphilly	Monmouth For 2022/23 approved	Torfaen 2022/23 Approved 10.2.2022	Merthyr Current fee not currently under or due for review	BGCBC current and proposed fees 2022/23
Annual Licence					
New Licence Application	£674	£463	£385.41	Not adopted	£649.98
Renewal Application	£674	£380	£247.34	"	£600.78
Transfer Application	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	"	£60.90
Minor Variation	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	"	£43.70
Full Variation	£107	£347	£136.32	"	£59.90
Temporary Licence (Up to 28 Days)					
New Licence Application	£30 - 1 day £115 - 8 to 28 days	£48 – 1 day	£75 – 1 day	"	£69.00

Appendix 2 - Taxi Fees 2022/23

Taxi Fees

	COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 4	COLUMN 6
	Caerphilly 2021/22 fees Currently not under review	Monmouth Fees for 2022/23 approved	Torfaen 2022/23 Approved 10.2.2022	Merthyr Current fee not currently under or due for review	BGCBC Current and proposed fee for 2022/23
VEHICLES					
New Hackney Carriage (HC) or Private Hire (PH) vehicle	£197	HC £236 PHV £227	£246	£169 (includes door sticker fee)	£295
Renewal HC or PH vehicle	£197	HC £ 172 PHV £177	£209 under 8 yrs £276 over 8 yrs	£154 Vehicles are tested twice a year -£30 each	£239
Transfer of licence to another person	No fee specified	No fee specified	£65	£20.97	£41.00
Replacement HC or PH vehicle	No fee specified	HC £236 PHV £227	£125	No fee specified	£132.00
Replacement licence	No fee specified	No fee specified	£25	No fee specified	£16.50
Replacement door stickers (2)	N/A	No fee specified	£37	£15	£11.50 (PHV only) 1 sticker £14.50 (PHV only) 2 stickers
Replacement internal plate	£6	No fee specified	£37	£12	£13.00
Replacement external plate	£11	No fee specified	£37	£18	£13.00
Replacement full set of plates and stickers	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	£21.50
Change licence type	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	£33.50
Change seating capacity	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	£29.50
Change registration number	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	£23.00
DRIVERS					
3 year HCD or PHVD licence	£253	£245 new £196 renewal	£315	£272	£251.00 (dual) (new and renewal)

	COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 4	COLUMN 6
	Caerphilly 2021/22 fees Currently not under review	Monmouth Fees for 2022/23 approved	Torfaen 2022/23 Approved 10.2.2022	Merthyr Current fee not currently under or due for review	BGCBC Current and proposed fee for 2022/23
1 year HCD or PHVD licence (discretionary)	£173	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	£180.00 (dual)
Replacement licence	No fee specified	No fee specified	£25	No fee specified	£16.50
Replacement badge	£6	No fee specified	£25	£7.12	£19.50
Replacement licence and badge	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	£13.75
Non-refundable deposit	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	£50.00
Refund for year 2 and year 3 of unused licence	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	£28.00 per full year not used
OPERATORS					
5 year licence - new	£757	£792	£710	£115	£324.00
5 year licence - renew	£757	£789	No fee specified	£115	£297.00
1 year licence (discretionary)	£237	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	£156.50
Replacement licence	No fee specified	No fee specified	£25	No fee specified	£13.75
ALL LICENCES					
Change name and/or address	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	No fee specified	£13.75

By virtue of paragraph(s) 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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