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THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

3rd February 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

PLANNING, REGULATORY & GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE
(GENERAL LICENSING MATTERS)

A meeting of the Planning, Regulatory & General Licensing Committee (General Licensing Matters) will be held in via Microspft Teams on Monday, 8th February, 2021 at 2.00 pm.

Yours faithfully

Michelle Morris
Managing Director

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

We welcome correspondence in the medium of Welsh or English. / Croesawn ohebiaith trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.

Municipal Offices
Civic Centre
Ebbw Vale
NP23 6XB

Swyddfeydd Bwrdeisiol
Canolfan Dinesig
Glyn Ebwy
NP23 6XB

a better place to live and work
lle gwell i fyw a gweithio

To receive.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND
DISPENSATIONS**

To receive.

4. **NON-STATUTORY LICENCE FEES 2021/22** 1 - 10

To consider the report of the Team Manager – Trading Standards and Licensing

5. **EXEMPT ITEM**

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 the report of the Senior Licensing Officer.

To: Councillor D. Hancock (Chair)
Councillor W. Hodgins (Vice-Chair)
Councillor D. Bevan
Councillor G. L. Davies
Councillor M. Day
Councillor J. Hill
Councillor C. Meredith
Councillor K. Pritchard
Councillor K. Rowson
Councillor T. Smith
Councillor B. Thomas
Councillor G. Thomas
Councillor D. Wilkshire
Councillor B. Willis
Councillor L. Winnett

All other Members (for information)
Manager Director
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: Planning & General Licensing Committee

Date of meeting: 8th February 2021

Report Subject: Non-Statutory Licence Fees 2021/22

Portfolio Holder: General Licensing Committee

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

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
26.1.21								8.2.2021

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform members of the proposed licence fees for 2021/22 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.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 Members will be acutely aware of the pressures placed upon businesses during the global pandemic. In these difficult and challenging times for both businesses and the wider public, it is proposed that fees are unchanged in order to support business at this time. This option would see fees from 2020/21 as shown in **Appendix 1** (Scrap Metal, Street Trading and Sex Establishments) and **Appendix 2** (Taxi Licensing), carried forward into 2021/22.
- 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.

3. Options for Recommendation

3.1 Members are asked to :

- 1 Support the proposal to retain 2020/21 levels of fees in 2021/22 (preferred option), or
- 2 Consider an alternative fee structure which will require formal consultation with the trade.

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 proposed fees were set in March 2020 and were calculated based upon principles of cost recovery at that time. 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 Due to fee increases not being agreed in previous years, but the income budgets subject to inflationary increases (in line with the Fees and Charges Register), the Authority's Accountants report that there is currently a cost pressure on the Licensing Committee's Income of £33,000, for

2020/21. Although the Income Budget has not been inflated for 2021/22, the Cost Pressure will remain if it is not addressed and could potentially worsen if the number of licences required were to decrease.

- 5.4 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 during this global pandemic.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 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. During this period, it is recommended that fees are not amended until these pressures are more settled.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

- 6.1 Supporting evidence to justify 2020/21 fee levels were considered when this fee was set at March 2020. 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 2021/22

Scrap Metal Fees

	COLUMN 1 MAXIMUM PERMITTED FEES ALLOWED	COLUMN 2 EXISTING FEES 2020/21 (as 2019/20	COLUMN 3 CALCULATED & PROPOSED FEE 2020/21	COLUMN 4 CALCULATED FEE 2021/22
SCRAP METAL COLLECTOR				
New Licence Application	N/A	£368.26	£333.89	£431.35
Renewal Application	N/A	£349.36	£314.29	£367.25
SCRAP METAL SITE				
New Licence Application	N/A	£482.56	£456.59	£484.27
Renewal Application	N/A	£334.06	£297.59	£439.27
OTHER				
Change of Site Manager	N/A	£35.60	£36.95	£39.55
Replacement Licence	N/A	£27.00	£28.00	£30.00

Sex Establishment Fees

	COLUMN 1 MAXIMUM PERMITTED FEES ALLOWED	COLUMN 2 EXISTING FEES 2020/21 (as 2019/20)	COLUMN 3 CALCULATED & PROPOSED FEE 2020/2021	COLUMN 4 CALCULATED FEE 2021/22
Application Activity				
New Licence Application	N/A	£612.42	£616.91	£694.05
Renewal Application	N/A	£410.82	£420.41	£468.15
Transfer of Licence	N/A	£601.62	£607.11	£680.15

Street Trading Fees

	COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 4
	MAXIMUM PERMITTED FEES ALLOWED	EXISTING FEES 2020/21 (as 2019/20)	CALCULATED & PROPOSED FEE 2020/2021	CALCUALTED FEE 2021/22
Annual Licence				
New Licence Application	N/A	£649.98	£742.02	£742.02
Renewal Application	N/A	£600.78	£684.02	£684.02
Transfer Application	N/A	£60.90	£61.45	£61.45
Minor Variation	N/A	£43.70	£44.65	£44.65
Full Variation	N/A	£59.90	£61.45	£61.45
Temporary Licence (Up to 28 Days)				
New Licence Application	N/A	£69	£69.85	£74.90

APPENDIX 2 – Taxi Fees 2021/22

Taxi Fees

	COLUMN 1 EXISTING FEES 2020/21	COLUMN 2 FUNDING GAP FROM REDUCED FEE INCREASE IN 2019/20*	COLUMN 3 CALCULATED FEE 2020/2021	COLUMN 4 PROPOSED FEE 2020/2021	COLUMN 5 CALCULATED FEE 2021/22
VEHICLES					
New Hackney Carriage (HC) or Private Hire (PH) vehicle	£295	£10	£314.65	£324.65	HC £336.90 PHV £342.90
Renewal HC or PH vehicle	£239	£22	£259.25	£281.25	£274.65
Transfer of licence to another person	£41	£0	£41.85	£41.85	£44.90
Replacement HC or PH vehicle	£132	£0	£137.65	£137.65	HC £143.90 PHV £149.90
Replacement licence	£16.50	£4.50	£25.05	£29.55	£26.90
Replacement door stickers (2)	£14.50	£14.50	£28	£42.50	£30
Replacement internal plate	£13	£13	£30.80	£43.80	£33
Replacement external plate	£13	£13	£30.80	£43.80	£33
Replacement full set of plates and stickers	£21.50	£21.50	£42	£63.50	HC £39 PHV £45
Change licence type	£33.50	£33.50	£71.45	£104.95	HC to PHV £75.90 PHV to HC £69.90
Change seating capacity	£29.50	£29.50	£60.25	£89.75	£63.90
Change registration number	£23	£23	£50.25	£73.25	£53.90

	COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 4	COLUMN 5
	EXISTING FEES 2020/21	FUNDING GAP FROM REDUCED FEE INCREASE IN 2019/20*	CALCULATED FEE 2020/2021	PROPOSED FEE 2020/2021	CALCULATED FEE 2021/22
DRIVERS					
3 year HCD or PHVD licence	£251	£16	£290.21	£306.21	£297.13
1 year HCD or PHVD licence (discretionary)	£180	£30	£237.19	£267.19	£245.65
Replacement licence	£16.50	£4.50	£25.05	£29.55	£26.20
Replacement badge	£19.50	£4.50	£33.15	£37.65	£35.10
Replacement licence and badge	£13.75	£13.25	£30.65	£43.90	£32
Non-refundable deposit	£50	£0	£50	£50	£50
Refund for year 2 and year 3 of unused licence	£28	£0	£26.51	£26.51	£25.74
OPERATORS					
5 year licence - new	£324	£0	£347.59	£347.59	£384.47
5 year licence - renew	£297	£0	£316.79	£316.79	£351.47
1 year licence (discretionary)	£156.50	£6.50	£206.39	£212.89	£224.97
Replacement licence	£13.75	£13.25	£25.05	£38.30	£26.20
ALL LICENCES					
Change name and/or address	£13.75	£13.25	£30.65	£43.90	£32.90

**The figure in column 2 indicates the gap between the calculated (cost recovery figure) figure that was proposed for 19/20 and the reduced fee that was approved for 19/20. Authorities are able to recover the deficit from previous year's income where the fee charged did not meet total cost recovery. The figure proposed in Column 5 therefore gives the total of the calculated fee for 20/21 plus the deficit from 19/20.*

#Any unused full years licence fees paid in respect of a driver's licence can be requested to be refunded. As a lower figure has now been calculated for the refund for each year, this will place a result in a profit

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

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