

Subject: Taxi Fees -

Report to: Licensing Committee  
EMT  
Cabinet  
Council

Date: 22 December 2015  
Date: 4 February 2016  
Date: 10 February 2016  
Date: 16 February 2016

Report by: Licensing and Elections Manager

**SUBJECT MATTER AND DECISIONS REQUIRED:**

**This report informs Members of the changes to taxi legislation following the Deregulation Act 2015. This act introduces changes to taxi legislation which include the requirement that driver's licences should last for three years and operator's licences for five years. In light of these changes a review of the taxi licensing policy and licence fees has been undertaken.**

**1. Background**

- 1.1. The Deregulation Act 2015 amends the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to extend the length of time a Combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver and Private Hire Operator licence remains valid for. The change aims to reduce the administrative burden placed upon the taxi trade, by reducing the amount of time spent on completing applications.

**2 Taxi Licence Fees**

- 2.1 Table 1, below, highlights Great Yarmouth's licence durations pre and post Deregulation Act 2015.

**Table 1**

<b>Licence Type</b>	<b>Prior Deregulation Act 2015</b>	<b>Post Deregulation Act 2015</b>
Combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers	Annual licence	3 year licence
Private Hire Operators	2 year licence	5 year licence

- 2.2 The Deregulation Act 2015, states that the Council may grant a licence for a lesser period depending upon the circumstances of the case.

- 2.3 As a result of the change, it was agreed that a review of the licensing fees for the above two licence types would be undertaken to ensure that the cost of administration is reflective of the service provided. Table 2 shows the current and proposed fee.

**Table 2**

<b>Licence Type</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Proposed Fee</b>
Combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers	£60 - annual fee	£150 – 3 year licence
Private Hire Operators	£230 – 2 year licence	£300 - 5 year licence -

- 2.4 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 requires Local Authorities to consult upon amendments to fees for 28 days. The above proposed charges are subject to a consultation period and this will be carried out in January.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That the proposed fee be approved in principle subject to a 28 day consultation period in January

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Statutory requirements

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Fees have been reviewed to cover council costs

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD OR DIRECTOR CONSULTATION:**

Director of Customer Services

Does this report raise any legal, financial, sustainability, equality, crime and disorder or human rights issues and, if so, have they been considered?	Issues	
	Legal	Yes
	Financial	Yes
	Sustainability	
	Equality	
	Crime and Disorder	
	Human Rights	
	Risk Considerations	Yes