

Name of meeting and date: **Licensing & Safety Committee – 16th September 2010**

Title of report: **Proposals for increases in Licensing Fees**

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Is it in the Council's Forward Plan ?	Not applicable
Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny ?	Yes
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr M. Harkin Cllr P. McBride Cllr D. Sheard

Electoral [wards](#) affected and ward councillors consulted: **All wards**

Public or private: **Public**

1. Purpose of report

For Cabinet to determine increases in discretionary licensing fees.

2. Key points

2.1 Background

For the past few years the Licensing Section has added a basic rate of inflation increase to fees which is traditionally implemented in December each year. In June 2009 fees were increased in excess of the basic rate due to the ongoing increasing fees of service delivery.

This year in recognition of the economic downturn the proposal is to revert back to a small increase inline with the retail rate of inflation.

The increase in fees are proposed to ensure the Licensing Section receives appropriate resources to:-

- i. carry out its administrative and inspection activities and maintain it's enforcement role.

- ii. ensure that the section receives sufficient resources to ensure continued service delivery
- iii. achieve cost recovery.

2.2 Detailed Proposal

A rate of inflation increase of 3.0% is proposed across all discretionary licensing fees covering gambling, general licensing, and taxi licensing. (Members are reminded that fees relating to licences issued under the Licensing Act for alcohol, entertainment, and late night refreshment activities, are set by central government and have not been increased since the Act came into force in 2005.)

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Positive implications

- i. estimate a £13,500 increase in overall income which will help maintain the level of Licensing's enforcement role across all licensable activities, including maintaining vehicle and driver standards within the Kirklees taxi and private hire fleet.
- ii. continue to achieve cost recovery

3.2 Negative implications

- i. An increase in fees, particularly during a period of economic downturn, may cause anxiety within the taxi trade. Discussions with individual representatives of the trade will be carried out at the next Trade meeting. It remains to be seen if objections will occur once the final proposals are published to drivers, proprietors and operators.

4. Consultees and their opinions

Yet to go to RET

5. Officer recommendations and reasons

Jonathan Barrett (Ass Director), Neal Fearn (H of S), Catherine Walter (Licensing Manager) – Public Protection Services

Above officers recommend that Cabinet approve the proposals in full as otherwise there will be a shortfall in licensing income which in turn will impact on service delivery and on enforcement issues in particular

6. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

To be received

7. Next steps

The taxi elements of the new approved fees require publishing by way of formal public notice and to allow 28 days for any representations. Due to this the agreed increases for all licences are proposed to be implemented from 1st November 2010 subject to there being no objections. Cabinet is also asked to confirm that any objections resulting from the public notice can be determined by the Regulatory Panel.

8. Contact officer and relevant papers

Catherine Walter, Licensing Manager 01484 456860

Neal Fearn, Head of Service (Public Protection) 01484 221550