

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET1 December 2016Report by Chief Officer - Legal and ProcurementCHARGING FOR SERVICES 2017/18**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to submit for approval the proposed licensing fees and charges for 2017/18.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet:-
- (a) Alters charges for 2017/18 in accordance with the table in Appendix 1. The increases are approximately 2.6% in line with inflation over the intervening period;
  - (b) Introduce an all inclusive fee for taxi and private hire licences to include items previously charged separately; and
  - (c) To continue with no cost licences for wheelchair accessible vehicles.

**BACKGROUND**

3. Legal Services, together with support from Customer First and Business Support sections, currently administers approximately 1,200 licences across various Civic Government and miscellaneous licensing categories. In terms of Civic Government legislation the licensing service must recover all the costs of providing the service through the fees charged. This requirement ensures that Council Tax payers, through main stream revenue budgets, are not being asked to subsidise the service. However, the total licensing income is not permitted to exceed the total cost of the service.

**REPORT**

4. Legal Services has not received any adverse comments regarding charging levels. It is proposed that fees and charges are raised by the recommended 2.6% inflation rate for charges commencing 1 April 2017.

5. On that same date, and in the interest of better public awareness and public safety, it is proposed to introduce new style licence plates for private hire and taxi vehicles. These plates will require more frequent amendment and will therefore need changed more often than at present. To avoid additional administrative tasks being carried out by Council officers and in the interest of modernising, it is proposed that the licence fee for private hire cars and taxis is increased by £40.00 per annum to include one set of brackets and a fixing kit as well as all licence plate inserts required for the period of the licence. Additional fixing kits and licence plates inserts will be charged at the rates on Appendix 1 if required, for example, if the originals are lost or stolen.

6. Overall, the service aims to balance all costs of licensing to maximise the utilisation of the staff, minimise costs and maximise service availability.

7. The Council's Equality Mainstreaming Report and Equality Outcomes 2013-2017 contains a specific Intermediate Outcome which aims to make wheelchair users confident of being able to hire a wheelchair accessible vehicle at a fair cost when they need one. The Licensing Committee has agreed to continue zero rates for any person wishing to licence a new wheelchair accessible vehicle as a taxi or private hire car or substitute a wheelchair accessible vehicle for an existing vehicle. There continues to be an acute shortage of wheelchair accessible vehicles in East Renfrewshire and continuing this arrangement for a further year is an incentive to increase numbers and to help the Council meet its Equality Outcome.

## **FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY**

8. It is anticipated that the changes applied at present will allow the Council to continue to recover the costs of licensing in full from licensing fees and charges. Legal Services continues to update and seek efficiencies in licensing where appropriate.

## **IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS**

9. There are no implications in terms of staffing, property, legal, IT, equalities and sustainability except that the continuation of zero rate licences may improve equalities across East Renfrewshire and new, modernised ways of working may improve efficiencies.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

10. It is recommended that the Cabinet:-

- (a) Alters charges for 2017/18 in accordance with the table in Appendix 1. The increases are approximately 2.6% in line with inflation over the intervening period;
- (b) Introduce an all inclusive fee for taxi and private hire licences to include items previously charged separately; and
- (c) To continue with no cost licences for wheelchair accessible vehicles.

## **REPORT AUTHOR**

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## APPENDIX 1

## Charging Classification and Policy for 2017/18

	<b>Service</b>	<b>Current Charge 2016/17</b>	<b>Proposed Charge 2017/18</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
	<b>Licensing</b>			
1.	Taxi Operator's Licence 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£150 £300 £360	£194 £388 £490	change
2.	Taxi Operator's Licence (WAV) 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£0.00 £0.00 £0.00	£0.00 £0.00 £0.00	No change
3.	Taxi Driver's Licence 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£ 87 £173 £208	£ 89 £177 £213	change
4.	Private Hire Operator's Licence 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£134 £269 £321	£177 £280 £449	change
5.	Private Hire Operator's Licence (WAV) 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£0.00 £0.00 £0.00	£0.00 £0.00 £0.00	New Charge
6.	Private Hire Driver's Licence 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£ 82 £164 £196	£ 84 £168 £201	change
7.	Street Trader's Licence (business/owner) 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£160 £254 £387	£164 £261 £397	change
8.	Street Trader (employee)	£ 82 £164 £196	£ 84 £168 £201	change
9.	Window Cleaner's Licence (business/owner) 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£174 £350 £419	£178 £359 £430	change
10.	Window Cleaner (employee)	£ 82 £164 £196	£ 84 £168 £201	change

	<b>Service</b>	<b>Current Charge 2016/17</b>	<b>Proposed Charge 2017/18</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
11.	Public Entertainment Licence 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£248 £501 £601	£254 £514 £617	change
12.	Public Entertainment Sunbed Licence 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£248 £501 £601	£254 £514 £617	change
13.	Market Operator's Licence 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£248 £501 £601	£254 £514 £617	change
14.	Late Hours Catering Licence 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£174 £350 £419	£178 £359 £430	change
15.	Second Hand Dealer's Licence 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£160 £233 £387	£164 £239 £397	change
16.	Indoor Sports Entertainment Licence 1 y /(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£200 £364 £436	£205 £373 £447	change
17.	Skin Piercing 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£248 £501 £601	£254 £514 £617	change
18.	Theatre Licence (1 year)	£136	£139	change
19.	Vehicle Inspection Fee (Admin) (Annual)	£ 25	£ 26	change
20.	Vehicle Partial Retest Fee (Admin)	£ 11.80	£ 12.10	change
21.	ID Badge Replacement	£ 11.80	£ 12.10	change
22.	Vehicle Substitution Fee	£ 52	£ 53	change
23.	Licence Variation Fee	£ 52	£ 53	change
24.	Front Vehicle Licence Plate Inserts	£ 7.50	£ 7.70	change
25.	Rear Vehicle Licence Plate Inserts	£ 8.60	£ 8.80	change
26.	Number Plate Bracket Kit	£ 8.60	£ 8.80	change
27.	Number Plate Bracket Rigid Bridge Kit	£ 3.80	£ 3.90	change
28.	Number Plate Platform Kit Flat	£ 5.30	£ 5.40	change
29.	Platform Flexiplate Kit Size 2	£ 7.50	£ 7.70	change
30.	Platform Flexiplate Kit Size 4	£ 8.50	£ 8.70	change
31.	Strapping Accessory Kit	£ 5.30	£ 5.40	change
32.	Quick Release Button & Key Set	£ 1.20	£ 1.20	No change
33.	No Smoking Sticker	£ 2.10	£ 2.10	No change

	<b>Service</b>	<b>Current Charge 2016/17</b>	<b>Proposed Charge 2017/18</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
34.	Tariff Sheet	£ 3.20	£ 3.30	change
35.	Taxi Driver Test	£ 45	£ 46	change
36.	Taxi/Private Hire Booking Offices 1 yr /(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£248 £501 £601	£254 £514 £617	change
37.	Knife Dealer's Licence 1 yr /(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£100 £200 £240	£103 £205 £246	change
38.	Metal Dealer 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£163 £327 £342	£167 £335 £351	change
39.	Notification of changes and alterations Civic Government Licences	£ 15	£ 18	No change
40.	Same day service surcharge (where applicable)		£ 41	change
41.	Monthly or part monthly licences in respect of private hire and taxis to be charged at 1/12 <sup>th</sup> of the yearly rate.			

\* Charging Recovery Policy is to recover full cost.

\* Classification is Statutory Charge

\* Charges are rounded to the nearest pound if over £10 or the nearest 10p if under £10

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