

GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2026

Present: Cllrs Derek Beer (Chair), Jill Haynes, Jack Jeanes, Emma Parker, Andrew Starr and Kate Wheller.

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Graham Duggan (Head of Regulatory Services), John Miles (Democratic Services Officer), John Newcombe (Service Manager for Licensing & Community Safety) and Joshua Kennedy (Democratic Services Officer).

15. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Williams, Webb and Somper.

16. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th January 2026 were confirmed and signed.

17. Declarations Of Interest

There were no declaration of interests.

18. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

19. Consideration of Objections to Taxi Licensing Fee Increase for 2026/2027

The Service Manager Licensing and Community Safety, John Newcombe introduced the report. Dorset Council was able to set local fees for taxi licensing which were set on a cost recovery basis and the last time fees were set was in 2022 when the new policy came in. The Council had a statutory duty to advertise any increases to fees set over £25. The increases in fees were advertised for two consecutive weeks in the Dorset Echo, and 5 responses had been received. A copy of the proposed fees was sent out to all taxi licence holders by newsletter. The Committee were asked to consider the representations and decide whether they approved the fee increase or not. There was a modest 7% average increase of fees, and over the three years was considered quite reasonable. He recognised that there were cost of living pressures and the cost of running taxis and insurance and he expected that this might have a knock-on effect with a potential request to increase the taxi tariff. He went through the current costs of running the service in the appendix of the report. There was an average £30,000 deficit per year which over the

last 3 years had built up to around £140,000. The proposal would cover the £30,000 annual deficit going forwards and provide a small surplus of around £11,000 for the coming financial year. It wouldn't be enough to pay off the existing deficit but would prevent it getting any worse. He went through some of the representations that had been submitted and Members considered each one on its own merits before reaching a decision.

Proposed by Cllr Jeanes, seconded by Cllr Parker.

Decision: The Licensing Committee recommended that Full Council adopt the new fees for the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licences.

20. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

21. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 10.25 am

Chairman

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