

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE  
14 October 2010

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**FEES AND CHARGES**  
**(Chief Officer : Environment and Public Protection)**

**1 PURPOSE OF DECISION**

- 1.1. Each service area is required to review the fees and charges it levies on behalf of the Council as part of the budget process. Attached to this report are appendices which set out the current and proposed fees. Members are asked to note the proposals and agree that these fees go forward for further discussion and consultation as part of the Council fee setting process.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1. **That, save for the Operator, Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle licence fees, the Committee recommends to the Executive the new fees and charges detailed in Appendix A, for public consultation.**
- 2.2. **That the committee agrees the proposed charges for Operator and vehicle licence fees are:**
- a) **advertised**
  - b) **if no objections are received, implemented as from 1 April 2011 or**
  - c) **if objections are received, that they be considered by the Committee at the meeting on 13 January 2011.**

**3 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

- 3.1 Borough Solicitor  
The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of the report.
- 3.2 Borough Treasurer  
The preliminary budget forecast 2011/12-2013/14 assumed an increase in fees and charges in line with the Council's long term average rate of between 3.25% and 3.75% i.e. 3.5%.
- 3.3 Equalities Impact Assessment  
There are no direct consequences of this report for any group and no direct community safety implications.
- 3.4 Strategic Risk Management Issues  
There are no issues to consider.

**4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1. The Council has given guidance that fees and charges should be increased by 3.5% on average. With respect to Licensing, a number of fees are set by regulation and cannot be changed by the Council.
- 4.2. The Appendices attached to the report include the charges for the services relevant to the Licensing and Safety Committee for the current year and the projected charges

for 2011 / 12 based upon Council guidance. To allow for easy collection, many charges have been rounded to the nearest £1. Overall the effect is a 3.5% increase on those charges that can be adjusted by the Council.

- 4.3. Charges for casinos and other gambling establishments were set at 75% of the statutory maximum fee from September 2007. Officers are of the view that the fees at their present levels are appropriate for cost recovery and should not be increased.
- 4.4. There are proposals for 2 new groups of fees:
  - i) operator 3 year licences and
  - ii) limited street trading licences.Both these additions have come forward following approaches to officers from businesses.
- 4.5. At present we have an Operator Licence which is renewed annually. Operators within the Borough have requested that they should have the opportunity to have a 3 year licence. Such provision has been available to drivers for a number of years and is a popular option. The level of fee has been set at 80% of the equivalent 3 x annual fee to reflect the reduction in costs incurred by the Council in administration.
- 4.6. A Street Trading Licence permits a person to trade from a specific site on an agreed number of occasions. In the vast majority of cases this is 5 to 7 days per week. There is a single charge regardless of the number of days trading. Officers have been approached by a business who wishes to trade a maximum of 2 days per week and trades within neighbouring boroughs on other days. The fee charged must be set to reflect the reasonable costs for the administration, enforcement and maintaining the area, i.e. cleansing associated with the business. The proposal recommends either a 40% or 60% reduction dependent upon the days on which trading takes place and this reflects the worth of the site in terms of potential demand and additional costs incurred by the Council in enforcing and maintaining the site.
- 4.7. Fees charged for the licensing of Hackney Carriage, Private Hire vehicles and Operators are required by Section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to be advertised in a local paper with any objections received to be considered by the Committee. The next Committee meeting is 13 January 2011 and, should any objections be received, they could be brought to that meeting, with any recommendations going forward to the Executive for final adoption as part of the overall Council fees and charges process.

#### Background Papers

None.

#### Contact for further information

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#### Doc Ref

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