

**FEES AND CHARGES – 2018-19  
ENVIRONMENT AND REGULATORY SERVICES PORTFOLIO  
LICENSING SERVICE**

**1. ITEM FOR DECISION**

As part of the annual review of budgets, decisions are required to agree any non-statutory fees and charges for the forthcoming financial year.

**2. POLICY FRAMEWORK**

The decisions over fees and charges have to be within the constraints of the overall financial framework and the medium term financial plan.

The setting of fees and charges for the Licensing Service were previously a function of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee. However, following changes to the Council's Cabinet in November 2017, the function is now a decision delegated to the Portfolio Holder of Environment and Regulatory Services. This is consistent with the setting of non-statutory fees and charges for all other services within the Portfolio.

**3. BACKGROUND**

The Service Manager and Licensing Manager have undertaken the annual benchmarking exercise against fees set by neighbouring Local Authorities when reviewing the fees. The Portfolio Holder has been involved in the discussions.

**4. OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

A large proportion of the licensing income comes from fees under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005 where fees are set nationally.

There is no increase proposed for fees which are locally set in the next financial year, as the Licensing Manager is currently undertaking a full review of fees and charges. This is to ensure the Local Authority complies with the principles of charging from a recent High Court Judgement which stated that licensing income must be ring fenced and profit cannot be made from the licensing system.

The only exception, is the vehicle inspection fee which has been increased from £50 to £55 and covers the full cost of the mechanics time to carry out the new and annual taxi inspection.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Any financial implications would be reported as part of the ongoing Portfolio Plan and budgetary control.

**6. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER AND EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no implications arising directly as a result of this decision, however the licensing regime and regulation activities that the fees apply to contributes positively to the general environment.

**7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED:** None

**8. RECOMMENDATION**

That the fees and charges attached be agreed and adopted from the 1 April 2018.

**Portfolio Holder's endorsement:** I agree the recommendation

**SIGNED:** *CLLR A J HOARE*

**Date:** 22 January 2018

**Date Notice of Decision given:** 22 January 2018

**Last Day for call-in:** 29 January 2018

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