

Licensing and Safety Committee - 7th March 2007

**Report of the Director of Law and Property
and the Director of Finance**

Revision of Licence Fees

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the revision of fees for licences and consents (other than those where the fees are imposed by statute in respect of liquor licensing and lotteries and amusements.)

Background

2. The fees for the various licences and permits administered by the Committee were last revised with effect from April 2006.
3. Fees received in respect of all licences or consents, are currently refunded if the application is withdrawn or refused.
4. In considering the revision of licence fees, the Committee may wish to compare the fees charged by the Council with those of neighbouring Councils. A table showing these comparisons is attached as Appendix 1.
5. Column (1) in Table A below shows the fees currently charged.

Column (2) in Table A shows the effect on fees of an increase of 2% that reflects budgeted cost increases only.

Column (3) shows the effect on fees of the budgeted cost increases at 2% plus a further 1% rise (3% in total).

Column (4) shows the effect on fees of the budgeted cost increases at 2% plus a further 2% rise (4% in total).

Column (5) shows the effect on fees of the budgeted cost increases at 2% plus a further 3% rise (5% in total).

TABLE A

Licences	(1) Fees currently charged	(2) Budgeted Costs Increase 2.00%	(3) Budgeted Costs increase +1.00% = 3%	(4) Budgeted Costs increase +2.00% = 4%	(5) Budgeted Costs increase +3.00% = 5%
	£	£	£	£	£
Street Trading Consent – 1st site	400.00	See Paragraph 10			
Street Trading Consent - additional site	400.00	See Paragraph 10			
Sex Establishments	3288.00	3354.00	3387.00	3420.00	3452.00
Motor Salvage Vehicle Licence	52.00	53.00	53.00	54.00	55.00

6. The Council is only permitted to set licensing fees up to the amount that can be ascertained as being the cost of administering the licensing function. However this does not apply to liquor licensing fees which are set by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. The cost of administering includes enforcement, the administrative and ancillary costs of issuing the licence and the ancillary costs relating to members meeting to determine certain licensing applications.
7. The cost of licence administration stated in paragraph 12 to 15 of this report includes enforcement and administrative costs of processing the licence but does not include any costs relating to Members.
8. Street Trading fees were analysed by the Licensing Officer during 2004, together with the Finance Directorate.
9. It was agreed that the total cost to the Council for the enforcement and administration of Street Trading Consents are £500.00 per annum.
10. It was also agreed that the Council should increase the fees for Street Trading over a transitional period as follows:-

2005/06	-	£300
2006/07	-	£400
2007/08	-	£500

Finance

11. The financial implications in respect of the above options are as follows:

12. Option 1:

Present fee level increased by budgeted costs increase (2%)

	£'000s	£'000s
Cost of Licence Administration		502
Less:		
Income:		
Hackney Carriage Licences	330	
Street Trading	3	
Betting and Gaming	19	
Liquor	<u>145</u>	<u>497</u>
Net cost of Licensing Administration		<u>5</u>

13. Option 2:

Present fee level increased by budgeted costs increase (2%) plus 1% (3%)

	£'000s	£'000s
Cost of Licence Administration		502
Less:		
Income:		
Hackney Carriage Licences	333	
Street Trading	3	
Betting and Gaming	19	
Liquor	<u>145</u>	<u>500</u>
Net cost of Licensing Administration		<u>2</u>

14. Option 3:

Present fee level increased by budgeted costs increase (2%) plus 2% (4%)

	£'000s	£'000s
Cost of Licence Administration		502
Less: Income:		
Hackney Carriage Licences	337	
Street Trading	3	
Betting and Gaming	19	
Liquor	<u>145</u>	<u>504</u>
Net surplus of Licensing Administration		<u>(2)</u>

15. Option 4:

Present fee level increased by budgeted costs increase (2%) plus 3% (5%)

	£'000s	£'000s
Cost of Licence Administration		502
Less: Income:		
Hackney Carriage Licences	340	
Street Trading	3	
Betting and Gaming	19	
Liquor	<u>145</u>	<u>507</u>
Net surplus of Licensing Administration		<u>(5)</u>

16. The net cost/surplus of licence administration and the Member costs are included in the Legal and Property Services budget for 2007/2008.

Law

17. Part III and Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 regulates the granting of street trading consents.

Equality Impact

18. The proposals take into account of the Council's policy in relation to equal opportunities.
19. There has been no consultation or involvement of children and young people in developing these proposals.

Recommendation

20. That the Committee review the current fees charged with effect from 1st April 2007.

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Background Papers

None.

LICENCE/PERMIT	DUDLEY	WOLVERHAMPTON	SANDWELL	BIRMINGHAM
Street Traders	First Site - £400.00 Additional Site - £400.00	Fees are determined by the commercial viability of the site. The fees are in excess of Dudley MBC fees	£275.00	Fees are determined by the commercial viability of the site. The fees are in excess of Dudley MBC fees
Sex Establishments	£3288.00	Single £4010 Joint £6010 6 months £320 plus 50% of above	£5300.00	6 months - £5,200 12 months - £9,365
Renewal	£3288.00	Single £3225 Joint £4840 6 months £320 plus 50% of above	£5300.00	6 months - £5,200 12 months - £9,365
Transfer	£3288.00	£320.00	£1500.00	£1,145
Motor Vehicle Salvage Licence	£52.00	£76.00	£70.00	Information unavailable