

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Licensing
DATE	27 March 2012
DIRECTOR	Stewart Carruth, Corporate Governance
TITLE OF REPORT	Licence Application Fees: April 2012 – March 2013
REPORT NUMBER:	CG/12/043

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to advise the Committee of the proposed level of application fees for licences administered through the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and other miscellaneous statutes and to obtain the Committee's approval for the fees to come into effect on 1 April 2012.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Committee approves the fees set out in Appendices 1 and 2B to this report.
2. All other existing fees to remain at their current level.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In terms of Section 12 and Paragraph 15 of Schedule 1 to the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the Licensing Authority shall "charge such ... fees as they may ... determine ... to ensure that ... the total amount of fees ... is sufficient to meet the expenses of the Authority in exercising their functions under Parts 1 and 2 of this Act and this Schedule". The proposed fees achieve cost recovery to the Local Authority.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other implications as a result of this report.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 Civic and Miscellaneous Application Fees

In determining the level of fees to be set, the budget for the forthcoming financial year (2012/13) was considered. All staff time is recorded electronically against the different licence types. This enables us to calculate accurately the costs to be attributed to each licence type. Actual costs for the year have been used in calculating these fees. The management information shows that there has been no significant change in the number of licences issued since the Committee last approved the fees in 2011.

For most of the fees, the budget has worked out to be cost neutral and therefore a minimum inflationary increase of 4% has been applied to most fees. Costs have not quite been covered for Cinemas so an increase of 6% has been applied to this licence type which is of three years duration. This should be sufficient for cost recovery in the current financial year.

In recognition of the change in legislation from 1 April 2012 bringing free events within the scope of the licensing regime, the Committee resolved in January 2012 that a 75% fee reduction be applied to all public entertainment licences from community, charity, voluntary and religious groups. While numbers may be significant it is considered appropriate to monitor the position for the first year and accordingly no projected figure has been included in the Appendix. The position will be monitored and a report reviewing the regime will come back to Committee in due course.

The current and proposed fees for 2012/13 are attached at Appendix 1.

5.2 Taxi and Private Hire Car Application Fees

The proposed fees were issued to the Taxi Consultation Group members on 13 March 2012. A breakdown of costs has also been provided at Appendix 2A.

The number of taxi and private hire car operator licences has increased by 19. The number of taxi drivers remains similar having increased by 2 drivers. It is considered appropriate to retain fees at their current level. This will cover costs and allow a margin for inflation.

The current fees and proposed fees for 2012/13 are attached at Appendix 2B.

6. IMPACT

The purpose of the Licensing regime is to contribute to the safety of the citizens of Aberdeen who use any of the services covered by licences.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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