

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Licensing
DATE	26 March 2013
DIRECTOR	Stewart Carruth, Corporate Governance
TITLE OF REPORT	Licence Application Fees: April 2013 – March 2014
REPORT NUMBER:	CG/13/035

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### 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 2013.

### 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 actual costs for the current financial year (201/13) were 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. The management information shows that there has been an increase in the number of some licences and a reduction in the number of others issued since the Committee last approved the fees in 2012. Overall, there has been no significant change.

For most of the fees, the budget has worked out to be cost neutral and no change is proposed this year to the level of fees.

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. The position has been monitored and will continue to be monitored over the next financial year.

The current and proposed fees for 2013/14 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 11 March 2013. A breakdown of costs has also been provided at Appendix 2A.

The number of taxi and private hire car operator licences has increased by 35. 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 small margin for contingencies.

The current fees and proposed fees for 2013/14 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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