

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Licensing
DATE	18 March 2014
DIRECTOR	Angela Scott (Corporate Governance)
TITLE OF REPORT	Licensing Application Fees 2104-2015
REPORT NUMBER:	CG/14/039

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 2014.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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 Licensing 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 Fee

In determining the level of fees to be set, the actual costs for the current financial year (2013/14) 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 2013. Overall, there has been no significant change.

For most of the fees, the position 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 2014/15 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 27 February 2014. A breakdown of costs has also been provided at Appendix 2A.

The number of private hire car operator licences has increased by 40. The number of taxi drivers has increased by 58.

Costs have decreased this year and it is considered appropriate to reduce fees by 20%. This will still cover costs and allow a small margin for contingencies.

The current fees and proposed fees for 2014/15 are attached at Appendix 2B.

6. IMPACT

Public - 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. The report is likely to be of interest to the public who may use any of the services licensed and to licence holders who pay application fees. It is likely to attract media interest.

Equality – No equalities issues arise from the report and no EHRIA is required.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Failure to set fees at appropriate levels will not comply with the licensing authority's duties under the Civic (Scotland) Act.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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