

Wolverhampton City Council

Committee / Panel	<u>LICENSING COMMITTEE</u>	Date: 11/01/12
Originating Service Group(s)	<u>EDUCATION & ENTERPRISE</u>	
Contact Officer(s)/ Telephone Number(s)	<u>COLIN PARR</u> <u>0105</u>	
Title/Subject Matter	<u>REVISIONS TO THE FEES TO PLACE 'A' BOARDS AND TABLES AND CHAIRS ON THE HIGHWAY</u>	

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- (i) Approve the revised fees for applications to place tables and chairs and 'A' Boards on the highway as detailed at Section 3 of this report.

REVISIONS TO THE FEES TO PLACE 'A' BOARDS AND TABLES AND CHAIRS ON THE HIGHWAY

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is for Members to:-

- (i) agree the revised fees for applications to place tables and chairs and 'A' Boards on the highway

2.0 Background

2.1 In 2006 Members agreed to introduce a regulatory system to control the placement of tables and chairs on the highway. The scheme was implemented in 2008.

2.2 It was also agreed by Members in 2006 that a regulatory system for 'A' Boards would be brought in at the same time as the tables and chairs scheme. However the 'A' Board scheme was delayed and then ultimately not introduced.

2.3 The current fee for an application to place tables and chairs on the highway is £261 and was agreed by Members on 9 February 2011.

2.4 The fee for an application to place a 'A' Board on the highway is £150, this has remained unchanged since 2006.

3.0 Proposed Revisions to Fees

3.1 On 7 December 2011 Cabinet received a report titled: *'Taking forward the management of the city centre public realm'*. The report discussed various public realm issues in the city centre.

3.2 Within the report were sections on both 'A' Boards and tables and chairs, outlining the background, current position and proposed approach.

3.3 It was recommended in the report that a permissioning scheme be introduced for 'A' Boards with a fee set at £25.

3.4 It was also recommended that the fee for a tables and chairs application be reduced to £25.

3.5 Cabinet endorsed the recommendations of the report and it was agreed that the proposed fee revisions for 'A' Boards and tables and chairs should be presented to the Licensing Committee for agreement.

3.6 It should be noted that whilst the Cabinet report detailed above was only concerned with city centre issues, the regulation of 'A' Boards and tables and chairs are city wide and the revised fees will apply to all areas.

4.0 Legal Implications

4.1 The regulation of both 'A' Boards and tables and chairs on the highway is derived from Section 115E of the Highways Act 1980.

- 4.2 Conditions may be placed on any permission in accordance with section 115F of the Highways Act 1980 and they should be such conditions as the Council think fit and can include requiring the payment of a reasonable charge or fee. (SH/23122011/M)

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 The reduction in the fee for tables and chairs applications will result in a loss of revenue of approximately £3k.
- 5.3 It is envisaged that the fee of £25 for 'A' Board applications should cover administrative costs of processing non contentious applications. (ES/29122011/Z)

6.0 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 The regulation of 'A' Boards and tables and chairs will have potential equalities implications, particularly relating to access issues.
- 6.2 The Council approach to regulating these items will be included in a broader EIA covering all public realm regulatory functions.

7.0 Environmental Implications

- 7.1 There are environmental implications arising from this report relating to the public realm and the control of activities on the highway.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 *'Taking Forward the Management of the City Centre Public Realm'*

WCC Cabinet, 7 December 2011.