

Report Title	Review of Fees and Charges for General Licensing and Miscellaneous Matters for 2023 - 2024	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable Director	John Roseblade	Director of City Housing & Environment
Originating service	Licensing Services	
Accountable employee	Paul Dosanjh	Service Manager, Trading Standards & Licensing Act
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Report to be/has been considered by	None	

Recommendation for decision:

The Regulatory Committee is recommended to:

1. Approve the proposed fees and charges for General Licensing as set out in Appendix 1 with effect from 1 April 2023.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To submit for consideration proposed fees and charges for 2023 - 2024 in relation to certain licences and licensed activities that are regulated by the Licensing Committee.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Council is empowered under statute to levy fees for the issue of local licences and permits.
- 2.2 The Council policy is to review its fees on an annual basis and introduce increases or decreases in line with the cost of providing the service. There is a requirement to pay due regard to the Council's social and economic policies.

3.0 Proposals for 2023 - 2024

3.1 General licensing

- 3.2 Certain licences, permits and registrations are subject to local control for fees and charges.
- 3.3 The additional fees and charges for acupuncture, tattooing, electrolysis, semi-permanent skin colouring and cosmetic piercing were approved by Councillor at the 10 July 2019 Licensing Committee. It is proposed that the existing fees and charges for acupuncture, tattooing, electrolysis, semi-permanent skin colouring and cosmetic piercing remain unchanged. These are detailed at Appendix 1.
- 3.4 It is proposed that the existing fees and charges for General Licensing for the current year 2022 - 2023 remain unchanged for the coming year 2023 - 2024. These are detailed at Appendix 2.
- 3.5 The scrap metal fees included at the end of Appendix 2 are for information only as the setting of those fees are an executive function.
- 3.6 It is proposed that the Animal Welfare fees agreed by Councillors at committee on 28 November 2018 remain unchanged for the coming year 2023 - 2024. These are detailed at Appendix 3.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 It is proposed that the existing fees and charges for General Licensing for the current year 2022-2023 remain unchanged for the coming year 2023 - 2024.
- 4.2 Should the Licensing Committee agree with the recommendations in this report it is anticipated that the proposed discretionary fees and charges in Appendix 1 will ensure a cost-neutral service.

- 4.3 The premises and businesses that hold these types of licences had been adversely affected by Covid-19 including lockdowns and restrictive business practices. These business are now being affected by the general economic downturn. It is recognised that many businesses have experienced financial difficulties during the pandemic and recovery period. It is, therefore, proposed to continue the scheme whereby the cost of licence renewals can be spread over a 3-6 month period, where necessary.
[SB/20122022/J]

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Generally, the Council is able to recover the cost of issuing and administering a licence. Unless controlled by statute, the Council will set fees and this will normally be on a cost recovery basis only. This will have been considered in previous reports.
- 5.2 Dependent on appropriate legislation, there is often a requirement to publish a change in fees, and it is deemed reasonable to publish before any changes are to take effect.
- 5.3 Section 6(1)(b) of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 (the Act) enables the Secretary of State to make regulations authorising Local Authorities to determine fees for safety certificate applications and these regulations include The Safety of Sports Grounds Regulations 1987 (the Regulations).
- 5.4 Regulation 8 provides that “a local authority may determine the fee to be charged in respect of an application for the issue, amendment, replacement or transfer of a safety certificate but such a fee shall not exceed an amount commensurate with the work actually and reasonably done by or on behalf of the local authority in respect of the application.”
[AB/12-12-2022/107]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

7.0 Climate change and environmental implications

- 7.1 There are no climate change and environmental implications arising from this report.

8.0 Schedule of background papers

- 8.1 Non-Statutory Licensing Committee – 19 January 2022 – Review of Fees and Charges for General Licensing and Miscellaneous Matters for 2022-2023.

9.0 Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1- Fees and charges for acupuncture, tattooing, electrolysis, semi-permanent skin colouring and cosmetic piercing
- 9.2 Appendix 2 - General licensing fees
- 9.3 Appendix 3 - Animal welfare fees