

Report to:	Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Date of Meeting:	Monday 10 January 2022
Subject:	Local Licensing – Fees and Charges 2022/2023		
Report of:	Head of Highways and Public Protection	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:			
Is this a Key Decision:	N	Included in Forward Plan:	N
Exempt / Confidential Report:	N		

Summary:

To seek the approval of Members for the fees and charges for Local Licensing Services in 2022/2023.

Recommendation(s):

That Licensing and Regulatory Committee:

Endorse and approve the proposed fees and charges for 2022/2023 as listed in the Annex.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

Many of the Local Licensing fees and charges are set nationally. Where this is not the case with regard to the general licensing (sex establishments, animal welfare licensing, personal treatment registrations etc.) and Gambling Act 2005 fees the Authority can only cover its reasonable costs in setting them.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The proposed changes in Fees and Charges (as appropriate) will result in a negligible change to the Council's income.

(B) Capital Costs

There are no financial costs associated with the proposals in this report

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None.	
Legal Implications: None.	
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.	
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	Y
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y
This is an information only Report and contains no proposals that will alter any impact on climate change .	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: N/A
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: N/A
Commission, broker and provide core services: N/A
Place – leadership and influencer: N/A
Drivers of change and reform: N/A
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: N/A
Greater income for social investment: N/A
Cleaner Greener: N/A

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services has been consulted and notes the report indicates no direct financial implications for the Council. (FD 662821).

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer has been consulted with regard to any legal implications and any comments have been incorporated into the report. (LD 4829/21).

(B) External Consultations

None.

Implementation Date for the Decision

1 April 2022

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Appendices:

Annex – List of proposed fees and charges

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Background

1.1 Many of the Local Licensing fees and charges are set nationally. Where this is not the case with regard to the general licensing (sex establishments, animal welfare licensing, personal treatment registrations etc.) and Gambling Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) fees the Authority can only cover its reasonable costs in setting them.

2. General Licence fees

2.1 It is proposed that these should be updated by 4.2% (the CPI rate in October 2021).

3. Gambling Act 2005

3.1 In respect of certain fees for the 2005 Act these can only be set up to a maximum tariff which is set by Central Government.

3.2 For the majority of processes relating to Regional, Large and Small Casinos the fees are already set to the maximum level permitted and therefore no change can be made in respect of those applicable processes (it should be noted, however, that Sefton does not have any of these types of premises and the legislation currently does not allow for any further grants of this type).

- 3.3 Section 212(2)(d) of the Act specifically states that local authorities 'shall aim to ensure that the income from fees... as nearly as possible equates to the costs of providing the service to which the fees relates'.
- 3.4 Regarding annual fees the DCMS *Guidance to licensing authorities on setting premises licence fees* states that 'The annual fee will cover the reasonable costs of compliance and enforcement work, including the cost of dealing with illegal gambling in a licensing authority's area'.
- 3.5 The annual fee is in effect a "maintenance" fee for the Licence and it is not a "renewal" fee.
- 3.6 It is proposed to uprate only the annual fees, the "change of circumstances" process fees and the cost of applying for a copy licence by 4.2% (the CPI rate in October 2021) as the other fees applicable are deemed to be still covering the Authority's costs.