

Report of: Head of Environmental Development
To: General Purposes Licensing Committee
Date: 3 June 2008 **Item No:**
Title of Report : Licence Fees and Charges 2008/9

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To seek confirmation of the fees determined by Executive Board for 2008/9 for licences where the Council has discretion over the level of fee charged.

Key decision: No

Portfolio Holder: N/A

Scrutiny Responsibility: Environment

Ward(s) affected: All

Report Approved by:
Financial and Asset Management – Andy Collett
Legal and Democratic Services – Jeremy Franklin

Policy Framework:

Recommendation(s):

- (a) To note the licence fees set by statute.
- (b) To agree the licence fees set by the Council for 2008/9 as laid out in this report.
- (c) To consider letters from the Adult Industry Trade Association and from Simply Pleasure in connection with the level of fees for sex establishments.

Introduction

1. Executive Board has agreed fees and charges for 2008/9 as set out in Appendix 1. The table includes a number of licences where the Council has discretion to set its own level of fees. The general principles when setting fees are that they must be reasonable and relate to the cost of performing the function. Costs include staffing, administration, testing, inspections, hearings, enforcement and appeals.

Licence fees set by the Council

Street Trading Consents	Fees were agreed by General Purposes Licensing Committee in January 2008 when Committee considered an extension of the scheme
Pavement Café Licences	Set at 1/10 th of full street trading fee per table per year.
Animal Boarding Establishments	Increased from £135 to £140 plus Vet's fees
Dangerous Wild Animals	Increased from £325 to £330 plus Vet's fees
Pet Shop	Increased from £135 to £140 plus Vet's fees
Riding Establishments	Increased from £331 to £335 plus Vet's fees
Acupuncture, tattooing, electrolysis and ear piercing	Increased from £88 to £90 per person and £176 to £180 per premises
Motor Salvage Operators	£78 – no increase
Sex Establishments	Increased from £6,500 to £7,750 for grant or renewal and £1,050 to £1,080 for a transfer
HMO Licences	Unassisted - £700 Assisted - £800 Set by Executive Board when scheme was introduced in April 2006. To be reviewed in 2008/9 if additional licensing is agreed
Taxi Licensing	Operators – vehicle under 3 £490 - vehicle 4 & over £980 Vehicles - Hackney £351 - Private Hire £262 Operators - Hackney £115 - Private Hire £101 Local knowledge test £15 CRB check £36 DVLA check £5 Fees increased in November 2007

Licence fees set by statute

Licensing Act 2003	No increase for 2008/9
Gambling Act 2005	New regime from 1 September 2007 Maximum fee set by statute
Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Permits	No increase for 2008/9

Sex Establishment Licences

- Letters have been received from the Adult Industry Trade Association and from Simply Pleasure seeking a reduction in these fees. (Appendices 2 and 3.)
- The Council adopted the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 in 2003 when the third sex shops opened in Oxford. The fees were initially set at £5,000 for an application for grant or renewal, and £500 for a transfer. Fees have been increased annually and in 2007/8 were set at £6,500 and £1,050. The proposed fees for 2008/9 are £7,750 for an application for grant or renewal, and £1,080 for a transfer.

Financial Implications

- The Council is responsible for collecting licence fees for these functions. Predicted income from licence fees is included in the Council's budget.

Legal Implications

- The General Purposes Licensing Committee's responsibilities are set out in the Council's Constitution and include setting and reviewing licensing fees.

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Background papers: