

**To:** General Purposes Licensing Committee

**Date:** 24 January 2018 **Item No:**

**Report of:** Head of Community Services

**Title of Report:** Commercial Events, Hackney Carriage and Private Hire, Road Closure Orders, Scrap Metal Dealers, Sex Establishments and Street Parties: Licence Fees and Charges for the 2018/19 financial year

### Summary and Recommendations

**Purpose of report:** To seek agreement of the licence fees for 2018/19 where the Council has discretion over the level of fee charged.

**Policy Framework:** Vibrant Sustainable Economy

**Recommendation(s):**

**The Committee is recommended to agree the licence fees and charges for 2018/19 as set out in the Appendix and recommend them to Council.**

**Additional Papers:**

**Appendix One:** Commercial Events, Hackney Carriage and Private Hire, Road Closure Orders, Scrap Metal Dealers, Sex Establishments and Street Parties Fees and Charges 2018/19

### **Introduction**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek agreement to the licence fees and charges that should apply for 2018/19, for those activities where the Council has discretion. This report does not cover the fees for Licensing and Gambling Act activities, which are reported separately to the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee.
2. The fees and charges detailed within this report and found at **Appendix One** relate solely to the functions of the General Licensing Team. A further report will be provided to Members in relation to the fees and charges related to the functions of the Miscellaneous Licensing Team.

3. The statutory principle in relation to the setting of fees is that they should be reasonable, proportionate and not exceed the cost of the procedures and formalities of the relevant licensing scheme, including staffing, training, administration, testing, inspections, hearings, and regulation.
4. Licence fees set by the Council and administered in the General Licensing function consist of Commercial Events, Hackney Carriage and Private Hire, Road Closure Orders, Scrap Metal Dealers and Sex Establishments.

### **Commercial Events**

5. The making of Temporary Road Closure Orders under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 is a discretionary service and the Council may make a charge for carrying it out, as long as the charge does not exceed the costs to the authority.
6. A number of Road Closure applications have been made in the last year for events involving a commercial element, such as for Christmas Market, Art Market, German Beer Festival etc.
7. It is proposed that the fee of between £100 and £300 remains.

### **Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licence Fees and Charges**

8. The procedure for changing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licence fees requires consultation and all relevant objections must be considered before making any changes.
9. An extensive review of the costs of providing administrative functions for taxi licensing was carried out in 2011 and following consultation with the trade, a number of charges were approved by the General Purposes Licensing Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011.
10. No changes to any of the licence fees or charges are proposed.

### **Scrap Metal Dealers**

11. The licensing of Scrap Metal Dealers and collectors is an executive function presided over by the City Executive Board. Therefore the setting of fees does not fall to this Committee. The current and proposed fees for this function can be found within the Appendix purely for Members to note.

### **Sex Establishments (Sexual Entertainment Venues)**

12. On 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010, the General Purposes Licensing Committee approved the report of the Head of Environmental Development detailing the level of fee to be set for the licensing of such premises.
13. No changes to any of licence fees or charges are proposed.

### **Sex Establishments (Sex Shops & Sex Cinemas)**

14. In 2010, the General Purposes Licensing Committee considered a detailed report on the costs applicable to the licensing of Sex Establishments (Sex Shops), and have in subsequent years determined the “reasonable fee” for licensing such premises.
15. No changes to any of licence fees or charges are proposed.

### **Street Parties**

16. The Council wishes to support the organisers of community based events such as street parties. It is, therefore, proposed to continue with the current practice of making no charge for small street parties or community events.

### **Financial Implications**

17. The Council is responsible for collecting licence fees for these functions. Predicted income from licence fees is included in the Council’s budget estimates for 2018/19.

### **Legal Implications**

18. The power to levy fees is contained in the legislation relevant to each function or in the Local Government Act 2003 in relation to discretionary services. Fees and charges should reasonably represent the costs of carrying out the function.

<p><b>Name and contact details of author:</b></p>
---

<p>Richard Adams Community Safety &amp; Resilience Service Manager Community Services Tel: 01865 (25)2283                      Email:radams@oxford.gov.uk</p>
---

This page is intentionally left blank