

## Update for the Licensing and Gambling Acts on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024



During its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee resolved to:

1. Request that the Chair of the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee calls on the Cabinet Member for Health and Transport on behalf of the Committee to:
  - i. Work with the Executive Director for Communities and People and the Licensing Team Leader to assess that the fees and charges set by legislations sufficiently cover the costs of its functions; and
  - ii. Determine a viable course of action including taking advice from other local authorities and writing to central government lobbying any concerns raised.

### *Background:*

- *Licensing Act 2003 has had fixed national fees that have not been changed since its introduction.*
- *In the 20 years since these fees were introduced, there have been incremental rising costs to the Licensing Authority for the issuing, administering, and enforcing of these licences.*
- *The fees have been consistently challenged by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Institute of Licensing, who take national surveys of fees, surplus and deficits.*
- *A 2016 report commissioned by the LGA concluded based on their survey results at the time that there was an overall deficit of between 9.2m and 11.4m nationally.*

### *Viable actions:*

- *Write to central government to recalculate / review licensing fees in line with inflation.*
- *Support the LGA & IOL by providing data for surveys and signing any co signed letters lobbying central government.*

Since its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024, a member of the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee enquired with the licensing team about the use of a night time levy.

2. The enquiry stated:

“Can you please clarify what process we would have to go through to kick of the process for considering a night time levy in the city, given the changes nationally to this policy”.

### *Key Action:*

- *The Members training on the Licensing Act 2003 will include an overview of what the levy is, an overview of the process and an overview of how the levy would likely operate in Oxford City.*

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