

To: Council

Date: 23rd February 2025

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive for City and Citizens Services

Title of Report: Hackney Carriage and Private Hire, Road Closure Orders, Scrap Metal Dealers, Sex Establishments Street Parties and Commercial Events: Licence Fees and Charges for the 2026/27 financial year

Summary and recommendations	
Decision being taken:	To seek agreement on the licence fees for 2026/27 where the council has discretion over the level of fee charged as recommended by the General Purposes Licensing Committee on 9 February 2026.
Key decision:	No
Corporate Priority:	Strong, Fair Economy.
Policy Framework:	None.

Recommendation(s): That the Council resolves to:
1. Agree the licence fees and charges for 2026/27 as recommended by the General Purposes Licensing Committee and as set out in Appendix 1.

Appendix No.	Appendix Title	Exempt from Publication
Appendix 1	General Purposes Licensing Fees and Charges 2026/27	No

Introduction and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek agreement on the licence fees and charges that should apply for 2026/27, 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 1** 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 relevant legislation for the functions detailed in this report are Town Police Clauses Act 1847, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.
4. 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.
5. 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 (Street Parties), Scrap Metal Dealers and Sex Establishments.

Commercial Events and events with no commercial element (including Street Parties)

6. 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.
7. Several Road Closure applications are made each year for events involving a commercial element, such as for Christmas Market, Little Clarendon Street Market, Art Market, North Parade Market, Christmas Light Festival etc.
8. It is important to note that where the application meets the test of being for a community or charitable event with no commercial gain the fee can be waived by the Authority, Executive Director, in support of such events.
9. Members are asked to note that the fees have been revised and a minor increase of approximately 4.3% has been applied to cover the Authority costs, due to inflationary pressures. The fees and charges can be found in **Appendix 1**.

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licence Fees and Charges

10. There are no substantial amendments to the fees and charges for this financial year, beyond administrative removal of outdated fees.
11. Members should also note that in support of licence holders, the Council does not propose any increase to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire fees for the 2026/27 financial year.

Scrap Metal Dealers

12. The licensing of Scrap Metal Dealers and collectors is an executive function which is the responsibility of Cabinet. Therefore, the setting of fees does not fall to this Committee. The fees for this function can be found in **Appendix 1** for Members to note.

Sex Establishments and Sexual entertainment venues

13. No amendment to Fees and charges for these functions have been proposed for the 2026/27 financial year.

Financial implications

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

Legal issues

15. 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. Licensing is not a revenue raising function and fees and charges should reasonably represent the costs of carrying out the function.

Equality Impact Assessment

16. The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to:
 - a. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
 - b. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't share it;
 - c. Foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not (which involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.
17. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
2. Due regard has been given to the duties under the equality Act 2010 and no adverse impacts are anticipated on any person with protected characteristics.

Environmental Considerations

18. There are no environmental considerations arising from this report.

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Background Papers:

- 1 Local Government Act 2003
- 2 Town Polices Clauses Act 1847
- 3 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
- 4 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982
- 5 Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013