

Licensing and Safety Committee – 19th February 2014

Report of the Director of Corporate Resources

Revision of Licence Fees (Sex Establishments/Sexual Entertainment Venue)

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the review of the fees for Sex Establishments/Sexual Entertainment Venues).

Background

2. The fees for the various licences and permits administered by the Committee were last revised with effect from April 2013.
3. Fees received in respect of Sex Establishments/Sexual Entertainment Venue licences, are currently refunded if the application is withdrawn or refused.
4. The present cost for grant or renewal of a Sex Establishment/Sexual Entertainment venue licence is set at £4,043.00, the Committee may wish to compare the fees charged by the Council with those of neighbouring Councils. A table showing these comparisons is attached as Appendix 1.
5. The information contained in Appendix 1 is the result of a survey by the Neighbouring Authority Working Group (Licensing) which was carried out regarding proposed fees and charges, a number of the Councils who replied to the survey have or are considering the reduction of fees taking into account the results from the Hemmings case. A copy of the Hemming v Westminster City Council stated case is attached to this report at Appendix 2.
6. The Council is only permitted to set licensing fees up to the amount that can be ascertained as being the cost of administering the licensing function. The cost of administering includes the administrative and ancillary costs of issuing the licence and the ancillary costs relating to members meeting to determine certain licensing applications. Enforcement costs are not included.
7. The current proposal is that the fees set for the grant/renewal of the Sex Establishment/Sexual Entertainment Venue licence be reduced to £3,034.00 to reflect the cost of service delivery.

Finance

8. This report is financial in nature with any financial implications referred to in the background above.

The budget 2014/15 has been set as follows; the cost of licence administration includes administrative costs of processing the licence but does not include any costs relating to Members.

	£'000s	£'000s
Cost of Licence Administration		691
Less:		
Income:		
Hackney Carriage Licences	(533)	
Street Trading	(10)	
Betting and Gaming	(4)	
Liquor	(235)	
Public Entertainment	(7)	
Gambling	(31)	
Scrap Metal	(8)	(828)
Net (surplus) of Licensing Administration		(137)

Law

9. The control of sex establishments/sexual entertainment venues is governed by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 – Part 11.

Equality Impact

10. The proposals take into account of the Council's policy in relation to equal opportunities.
11. There has been no consultation or involvement of children and young people in developing these proposals.

Recommendation

12. That the Committee review the current fees charged with effect from 1st April 2014.



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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

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List of Background Papers