

LICENSING COMMITTEE

28 January 2025

Present:

Councillor Martyn Snow (Chair)
Councillors Begley, Banyard, Bennett, Fullam, Haigh, Harding, Holland, Hussain, Miller-Boam, Sheridan and Wood

Also present:

Head of Environment and Waste, Principal Licensing Officer, Legal Advisor and Democratic Services Officer (LS)

5 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2024 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as correct.

6 Declarations of Interest

The following Member declared a personal interest as indicated:

COUNCILLOR	MINUTE	Interest
Councillor Hussain	7	Private Hire/Hackney Carriage Licence Holder

Councillor Hussain then left the meeting.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976

7 Licensing Fees and Charges for 2025/26

The Head of Environment and Waste stated that there were a number of fees and charges which were statutory therefore could not be changed.

The Principal Licensing Officer presented the report drawing attention to the following points:

- the recommendation was as set out in the report;
- Appendix A set out the legal powers to set fees and charges;
- setting fees and charges was important to negate the risk of falling short on budget;
- Appendix B set out the fees and charges;
- there was a corporate request to increase by 3% this year; and
- some increased slightly more or less depending on the budget line.

The Head of Environment and Waste answered Members' questions making the following points:

- legislation set upper and lower limits for gambling fees and charges and the Council reached the upper limit some years ago;
- where fees and charges could be changed they had been;
- licensing fees covered costs but additional funding would allow staff increase meaning more compliance checks could be undertaken;

- successive governments had not reviewed fees for a number of service areas for which the public sector held responsibility;
- HMO licensing was not a function of the Licensing team or Committee;
- a larger increase would have limited impact on budget due to numbers of licenses in some areas; and
- that the working group were looking at changes in policy that may have an impact on cost.

RESOLVED unanimously that the Licensing Committee recommends the following:

For the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 the fees shall be as set out in Appendix B.

The meeting commenced at 5.32 pm and closed at 6.04 pm

Chair