

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of People and Places	Licensing and Public Safety Committee	March 2010

ANNUAL REVIEW OF LICENCE FEES

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To present to Members the proposed licensing fees for 2010/2011 and to inform the Committee of those licensing fees which we are obliged to collect as a statutory function.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- Members are asked to consider the report and agree the proposed fees as attached.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- Licensing fees were last reviewed on 3 February 2009 when Members approved recommendations contained in that report.
- The purpose of this report is to underpin the financial liabilities of the Council's Public Protection Team. In the majority of cases the services that the licensing section deliver are provided for by statute, where the Council may recover the reasonable cost involved in providing that service.
- In order that the Council can maintain the high standards of service delivery expected by our customers, the fees associated with the various licences where applicable will need to be set according to the cost of realistically delivering the service and it would be prudent to increase such charges by 2% for this financial year and any fees affected by the increase shall be amended to the nearest pound.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- To ensure that the fees which the Council has discretion to set are in line with the cost of providing the associated licensing service.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- None

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances		Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	
Involving people in their communities		Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	√

BACKGROUND

9. There is no proposal to adjust those fees that have been set with regards to The Gambling Act 2005, Issues of enforcement regarding gambling have occupied the time of the public protection officers this year. Further enforcement actions and proactive measures taken in partnership with the Gambling Commission, have led to a regularised and legitimate structure of gambling within Chorley and for this reason the fees attached to premises licenses, authorised under the Gambling Act 2005 should remain unchanged. In addition the service has just undertaken a review and consultation on the Councils Statement of Licensing Policy with regard to the Gambling Act 2005
10. Members are reminded that there is no scope to adjust those fees associated with the Licensing Act 2003, as these are fixed by central government. Members should be aware that the expected income from fees raised in 2010/11 is likely to be less than in previous years, due to decreasing numbers of licensed premises within the Borough; this has been estimated at approx 15% over the next year. Should any amended regulations regarding Licensing Act 2003 fees become apparent in the future members will be advised.
11. Members will recall that amendments to the testing frequency for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicle licences were introduced in January 2010. Currently this charge is £53.10 and any further increases will be in accordance with those authorised by VOSA. Therefore it is recommended that the element of the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicle licence application, relating to the MOT test, only be exempt from any further increase proposed in this report.
12. The Council has discretion over the remaining fee structure and the attached Appendix 1 are the proposed fees and charges from 1 April 2010. This list is not exhaustive, any incidental fees and charges where a charge is affixed shall also be affected by the determined increase.
13. The proposed increases in fees will be advertised and any representations will be reported to Members for consideration by this Committee.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

14. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included

Finance	√	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	√	No significant implications in this area	

HEAD OF GOVERNANCE

15. There are no legal comments.

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Simon Clark	5732	25 January 2010	fees