

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Corporate Governance	Licensing and Safety Committee	3 February 2009

ANNUAL REVIEW OF LICENCE FEES

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To present to Members the proposed licensing fees for 2009/2010 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 support the proposed fees as attached.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- Licensing fees were last reviewed on 16 January 2008 when Members approved recommendations contained in that report.
- The purpose of this report is to underpin the financial liabilities of the Council's licensing section. 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 not more than 3% (+ or – rounding) for this financial year and any fees affected by the increase shall be amended to the nearest pound.

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

7. 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 licensing department 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.
8. 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. It was an expectation during 2008 that a government report would address the fees associated with the Licensing Act 2003; however this has not been produced. Members should be aware that the expected income from fees raised in 2009/10 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.
9. Officers of the licensing unit are now consulting with the trade regarding Hackney Carriage/Private Hire drivers licence applications and consideration will be given to extending the length of time a driver may be licensed prior to renewal. The council has discretion to licence drivers for up to 3 years. Any proposals to alter the period of driver's licences would be put before Members for their consideration and it is likely that there would be budget considerations at that time, these will be measured against efficiency savings in administration time, benefits to customer services and preserving the integrity of the licensing regime.
10. Members will recall that aspects of Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicle licences, in terms of vehicle testing, were considered by members in September 2008. Part of those considerations took account of the VOSA fees for the MOT. Members agreed that any increases, in respect of charges made by garages for undertaking the MOT, would reflect the maximum charge allowable by VOSA. 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.
11. Attached as Appendix 1 are the proposed fees and charges from 1 April 2009. This list is not exhaustive, any incidental fees and charges where a charge is affixed shall also be affected by any determined increase.
12. The proposed increases in fees must be advertised and any representations must be considered by this Committee.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

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

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

COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION

14. The agreed income arising from the recommended fee increase was reflected in the draft General Fund revenue budget for 2009/10 presented to the Executive Cabinet on 8 January 2009.

ANDREW DOCHERTY
CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
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PROPOSED TAXI FEES FROM 1 APRIL 2009

Hackney Carriage Licence:	12 months	£428.00
	6 months	£223.00
	4 months	£160.00
Private Hire Operator's Licence:	1 - 5 vehicles	£268.00
	6 - 10 vehicles	£317.00
	11 + vehicles	£375.00
Private Hire Vehicle Licence:	12 months (new)	£227.00
	12 months (renewal)	£214.00
	6 months (new)	£129.00
	6 months (renewal)	£118.00
	4 months	£88.00
Driver's Licence	Grant (<i>includes knowledge test</i>)	£70.00
	Grant (<i>including 2nd badge</i>)	£92.00
	Renewal £47.00. If 2 nd badge included £70.00	
Administration Fee (for 1 st hour or part thereof)		£27.00
Criminal Record Bureau Check (<i>subject to change by CRB</i>)		£37.00
Full set of livery		£39.00
Rear plate – on renewal		£11.00
Second Drivers Badge (after initial grant)		£46.00
Vehicle Change /Transfer Fee		£47.00
Replacement items: These will be charged at the Council's minimum charge		£22.00
OTHER FEES		
Data Access Release		£8.00
Highway Amenity Licence	Grant	£289.00
	Renewal	£237.00
Motor Salvage Operators		£103.00
Second Hand Goods Dealers	Shop Premises	£103.00
	Stalls	£38.00
Sex Shop Licence		£1983.00
Small Society Lottery Licence	Grant	£40.00
	Renewal	£20.00