



LICENSING COMMITTEE

Wednesday 7th October 2015

LICENSING FEES 2016 (REP1297)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. To consider and approve the increase in licensing fees where the Council has the discretion to do so with effect from 1st January 2016.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
Wards Affected:	All Wards within the District
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Mary Rudd Cabinet Member for Community Health & Safety
Supporting Officer:	Caroline Evans Licensing Services Manager 01394 444678 caroline.evans@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

1 FEE STRUCTURE

- 1.1 The Council administers and issues a wide variety of licences and permits as part of its regulatory role.
- 1.2 Following the introduction of the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005, the majority of the licence fees are now set or controlled by Government. However, the Council has some discretion to set its own fees and charges in relation to other licences.
- 1.3 This report considers options to increase income for the year beginning 01 January 2016.

The Council has the power to set its own fees for the following licences:

- (a) Taxi Licensing

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Pt II permits the Council to charge such fees as may be sufficient to cover in whole or in part the cost of licensing vehicles, their drivers and operators. The Act also contains provisions that enable a licensing authority to remit the whole or any part of a licence fee.

- (b) The Council has powers to set fees in respect of other licences and registrations as follows:

- i) Pleasure Boats (restricted to river use)
- ii) Gambling Act 2005 (Premises Licences)
- iii) Sex Establishments
- iv) Street Trading
- v) Skin Piercing Registration
- vi) Animal Welfare Licensing

- 1.4 Statutory fees are set by Government for the following:
 - (a) Licensing Act 2003 (all licences)
 - (b) Gambling Act 2005 (miscellaneous fees, including lottery permits)
- 1.5 No fee is chargeable for charitable collection permits.

2 RATE OF INCREASE

- 2.1 The Council's Finance team has advised that there should be a minimum increase in the region of 1%; rounded to the nearest pound.
- 2.2 Legislation allows fees to be set at a level to recover the cost of providing the Licensing service and therefore the proposed increase has to reflect officer time and resources required to administer an efficient and effective service.
- 2.3 The proposed fees, if approved, will be applied from **01 January 2016**.

3 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The charging of fees and the relevant income is a necessary balance between being fair to the fee paying customers and ensuring the Council Tax payers are not subsidising the licensing service or the licence holders.

4 OTHER KEY ISSUES

4.1 The decision affects the entire District.

5 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 An increase in the region of 1% (rounded) is the only considered option.

6 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

6.1 That the fees and charges currently applied to licences are increased to the level required to cover the cost of running the service.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the increase in licence fees as set out in Appendix A be approved for presentation to Full Council 18th November 2015 with a view to taking effect from 01 January 2016.

APPENDICES

Appendix A	List of current fees and the proposed increases.
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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