

Notice of:	DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs)
Decision Number:	PH17/2017
Relevant Officer:	Tim Coglan, Head of Public Protection
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Gillian Campbell, Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs)
Date of Decision:	19 February 2018

FEES AND CHARGES 2018/19 – LICENSING SERVICE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the proposed fees and charges for the Licensing Service for 2018/2019.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the attached fees and charges for the Licensing Service for 2018/2019 with effect from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 as outlined in Appendix A.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The proposed fees have been calculated to cover the costs of providing each service.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

Alternative options are for the fees agreed for 2017/18 to remain in force or for different levels of increase to fees and charges to be applied however these options would not reflect the costs of providing the service.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

“The economy – maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Appendix A details the proposed changes to fees and charges set by the Council.

5.2 The Provision of Services Regulations 2009 requires that fees should only be set at a level to ensure cost recovery for providing the service. Fees cannot be used to support other Council services or compensate for a lack of income from other types of licence.

5.3 The majority of the fees and charges have been increased by approximately 3.5% to reflect the cost of inflation.

5.4 It is not proposed to increase taxi fees due to the introduction of three year licences for drivers. As this is a statutory requirement the option of issuing a one year licence has been removed. The existing charge of £250 does cover the costs of administering this service. The exception to this freeze on taxi fees is the fee for a vehicle inspection which is increasing due to an increase in fees being charged by CVMU for conducting the inspections.

5.5 The main changes to fees are as follows:

- A reduction in sex shop and SEV fees to ensure that they reflect the actual cost of administering applications and issuing licences
- A 50% increase in costs for photography consents – this is due to the increased level of enforcement resource that has been required in this area over the last financial year. Even though the percentage increase is high, the new fee would only be £75 for one year

5.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.7 List of Appendices:

Appendix A - list of proposed fees and charges

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 Fees and charges (other than those set by Central Government) must be set at a level that only ensures full cost recovery. A surplus cannot be used to support other Council services.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 The impact of these increased fees on the public/service users that share protected equality characteristics has been considered. At this stage the view is that there will be no impact. Any impacts raised as part of the statutory consultation on hackney carriage/private hire fees will be considered before the fees are finalised.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 The Fees and Charges process set out to achieve;

- Aim to achieve cost neutrality
- Ensure that fees are structured in a fair and open way
- Any claims for Restoration will be dismissed

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 If fees are set at a level that creates a surplus used to support other Council services, the Council can be ordered to repay the surplus to the trade by the District Auditor.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Any proposed increases to the hackney carriage and private hire vehicle fees must be advertised inviting comments before the fees can lawfully be increased.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.

14.0 Key decision information:

14.1 Is this a key decision?

No

14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

14.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

14.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

15.0 Call-in information:

15.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

15.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed:

Date approved:

17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

17.1 None.

18.0 Executive decision:

18.1 The Deputy Leader of the Council agreed the recommendation as outlined above namely:

To approve the attached fees and charges for the Licensing Service for 2018/2019 with effect from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 as outlined in Appendix A.

18.2 Date of Decision:

19 February 2018

19.0 Reason(s) for decision:

The proposed fees have been calculated to cover the costs of providing each service.

19.1 Date Decision published:

19 February 2018

20.0 Executive Members in attendance:

20.1

21.0 Call-in:

21.1

22.0 Notes:

22.1