

LICENSING COMMITTEE

11.1.16

REVIEW OF FEES RELATING TO RIDING ESTABLISHMENT LICENCES

1 Purpose

- 1.1 For Members to agree the proposed changes in respect to Riding Establishment licence fees.

2 Recommendations/for decision

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| 2.1 That the Committee note the review of fees relating to riding establishment licences and agree the proposed fees as set out in paragraph 3.4. |
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3 Supporting information

- 3.1 Members will recall that in November 2015 Licensing Committee received a report on a review of fees relating to licences for animal related businesses. All proposed fees were agreed with the exception of those relating to riding establishments.
- 3.2 The original proposed fee for riding establishments was a generic fee based on the overall cost of providing the service and the number of existing premises. This approach was designed to simplify the fee structure and negate the need to calculate the fee for each premises. However during consultation a representation was received from the director of Horses Helping People who pointed out that it resulted in a significant increase in costs for her charity. Further examination revealed that 5 other licensed businesses would effectively pay more for their licence.
- 3.3 Given the inherent unfairness Members were asked to defer a decision on fees relating to riding establishments and their general views were sought. Members were in agreement that the fee should reflect the size of the establishment and the consequent work required to determine the licence and ensure compliance.
- 3.4 The costs of delivering this particular service have been reviewed based on practical experience, recently introduced efficiencies and establishing competitive charges with nominated vets. It has been possible to slightly reduce the fee. The existing fee is £275 plus £15 per horse. It is possible to cover the costs of running the service based on existing businesses by maintaining the £275 and reduce the cost per horse to £10.
- 3.5 All existing licence holders were consulted on this revised fee. Unsurprisingly only one response was received and that was from Debbie La-Haye. She was grateful for the reconsideration of fees, agreed it was fairer and acknowledged it reduced her costs. In accordance with best practice it is recommended that fees are reviewed periodically to ensure they are accurately set so that they cover the cost of maintaining the service and no more.
- 3.6 As with the current fee structure, if the number of horses used in the riding establishment increases during the term of the licence the licence holder will be required to pay the council an additional fee based on the number of

horses to be added to the licence. Any new horses brought into a riding school part way through the duration of the licence must also be inspected by our authorised vets at the expense of the licence holder.

4 Options considered

- 4.1 The fee proposed has been calculated to cover the cost of covering the licensing regime for riding establishments.

5 Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 This fee has not been reviewed in a number of years and due to efficiencies and operational changes it has been possible to slightly reduce the fee.

6 Resource implications

- 6.1 All costs will be recovered by the proposed fee.

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Background Documents	None