



Haringey Council

Report for:	Regulatory Committee	Item Number:	
Title:	Review of Fees and Charges 2015-16 - Licences		
Report Authorised by:	Kevin Bartle – Assistant Director of Finance (CFO)		
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Ward(s) affected:	ALL	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:	KEY

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1. The Council's income policy requires an annual review of the level of the Fees and Charges levied upon service users with a view to ensuring that income is maximised commensurate with the full recovery of costs.
- 1.2. The Cabinet considered and approved changes to a number of Fees and Charges at their meeting held on 10 February 2015 however, a small number of items (relating to certain approvals, consents, permits and licenses) cannot be made by the Executive and are, therefore, reserved for consideration and decision by the Council's Regulatory Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To approve the increase to the Council's licensing fees and charges, as set out in the attached appendix, with effect from 1st April 2015, subject to an equalities impact assessment being undertaken, as set out in paragraph 7, with any subsequent changes then required being delegated to the Assistant Director for Environmental Services and Community Safety.

3. Alternative options considered



- 3.1. Officers have reviewed fees and charges firstly as part of the annual consideration of fee levels and secondly due to the need for the Council to maximise its sources of income in order to mitigate against service cuts.

4. Background information

- 4.1. The Regulatory Committee have responsibility for the determination of certain specified fees and charges.
- 4.2. At its meeting of 10 February 2015 Cabinet agreed that, based on an assessment of prevailing economic and inflationary pressures, a general increase of 2.3% should be applied to Fees and Charges levied by the Council.
- 4.3. This report meets the requirements of the Council's external income policy for the 2015-16 financial year. Appendix 1 contains the full details of current licensing fees and charges and the proposed charge and corresponding increases. All non-statutory charges are proposed to be increased in overall terms by 2.3% in line with the corporate requirement and the Council's MTFP.
- 4.4. In a number of instances, as a result of rounding to the nearest pound for the convenience of administration and collection, the actual increase for individual fees and charges is slightly more or less than 2.3%.

5. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications

- 5.1. The estimated financial effect arising from the implementation of the 2015-16 fees and charges rates as set out in this report (assuming no impact on volumes) is an increase in income of approx £5k.

6. Comments of the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance and legal implications

- 6.1. The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report and advises that certain fees for services provided by local authorities are set out in the parent legislation or in regulations made under the parent legislation. In such instances the Council has no discretion as to the level of the charge.
- 6.2. In addition, section 93 Local Government Act 2003 permits local authorities to charge for discretionary services, provided that there is no alternative power allowing the local authority to charge and provided that there is nothing in the parent legislation preventing the local authority from charging for these discretionary services. Where the Council charges for such discretionary services, it has a duty to secure that, taking one financial year with another, the income from charges does not exceed the costs of provision. Section 93 permits the Council to



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charge only some persons for providing the discretionary service and also permits the Council to charge different persons different amounts for providing a service.

- 6.3.** In reviewing fees and charges, services need to demonstrate that they have had due regard to the overarching Public Sector Equality Duty as set out in the Equality Act 2010. Services need to demonstrate that they have considered whether an equalities impact assessment should be carried out and undertake such an assessment if found to be necessary.
- 6.4.** Certain fees may not be set by the Cabinet. The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 provides that decisions on certain approvals, consents permits and licenses (for example premises licences; licenses for street trading) cannot be made by the Executive (Cabinet). Regulation 2 (6) provides that charges for such approvals, consents, permits and licenses may not be made by the Executive (Cabinet). These fees will be set by the Regulatory Committee and are the subject of this report.

7. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

- 7.1.** The Council must pay due regard to its public sector equality duties with regard to people who share any of the characteristics protected by sections 4 – 12 of the Equality Act 2010. These include race, sex (formerly gender), disability, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and gender re-orientation.
- 7.2.** Prior to making any final decisions on fee increases the Council will assess the impacts of those by conducting Equality Impact Assessments [EqIAs], starting with an initial screening which considers whether there is a need for a full assessment.

8. Head of Procurement Comments

Not applicable

9. Policy Implication

- 9.1.** The Council's income policy requires that an annual review takes place and this report together with the Cabinet Report on all other fees and charges, meets that policy obligation.

10. Reasons for Decision

- 10.1.** It is a requirement to review Fees and Charges annually. The financial position that the Council finds itself in supports the view that levels of fees and charges should be maximised taking into account all relevant factors including the effect on service users and any consequent demand for services.

11. Use of Appendices



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Appendix 1 Schedule of Licensing Fees 2015-16

12. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985