
2021/22 Fees and Charges

Committee considering report:	Licensing Committee
Date of Committee:	30 th November 2020
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Hilary Cole
Report Author:	Sean Murphy

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To set out the Fees and Charges which have been proposed by the Joint Public Protection Committee on 28 September 2020 for the Committee to consider ahead of consideration by February 2021 Executive and Full Council In March 2021.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee considers the report, to note the proposals and **AGREES** these fees set out at **Appendix C** go forward for consideration as part of the Council fee setting process.
- 2.2 The Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the fees for Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles and Private Hire Operators are put forward for statutory consultation.
- 2.3 The Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the methodology at **Appendix B** for calculating fees for home animal boarding establishments licensed under Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 should be applied to 2020/21.

3. Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	The financial implications of these recommendations are set out in the Appendices. The role of the Committee in this respect is to consider the fees and charges proposed.
Human Resource:	There are no Human Resource implications with this report

Legal:	The Services Directive and relevant case law apply to the setting of discretionary fees by local authorities.			
Risk Management:	The fees are potentially subject to legal challenge. It is therefore important the fees and methodology are subject to ongoing review.			
Property:	There are no property implications for this report			
Policy:	The Joint Public Protection Committee is required every autumn to propose a budget to partner authorities. This includes proposals in relation to discretionary fees and charges. The committee this year also considered a number of matters raised by the operators of animal home boarding businesses and those operating houses in multiple occupation. The results of the deliberation with respect to animal home boarding are appended to this report and the resultant changes are set out in the proposed fees and charges. It is not the role of this Committee to set the fees for 2021/22. The Committee is being asked to consider the fees prior to them being considered by Executive and Council. The Committee may amend the proposals and put forward alternative fees for consideration.			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		✓		No impact

B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		✓		No impact
Environmental Impact:	✓			Nuisance arising from licenced premises can have a significant impact on individuals and the wider community. The implementation of and policy oversight of the licensing regime provides important protections.
Health Impact:	✓			Alcohol and gambling can have significant impact on physical and mental health. The licensing regimes are in place to provide controls and protections for individuals and the wider community.
ICT Impact:		✓		None
Digital Services Impact:		✓		Not relevant to this report
Council Strategy Priorities:		✓		This work is business as usual within the service.
Core Business:		✓		It is business as usual
Data Impact:		✓		No impact
Consultation and Engagement:	The fees for Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles and Private Hire operators will be subject to statutory consultation. The animal home boarding fees and methodology have been subject to significant discussion with trade representatives ahead of JPPC			

4. Other options considered

4.1 N/A

Executive Summary

5. Introduction / Background

- 5.1 The Joint Public Protection Committee is required by the Inter-Authority Agreement that set up the Public Protection Partnership shared service to recommend a draft set of fees and charges to each of the member Councils.
- 5.2 It is noted that a significant number of fees within the licensing field are set by Government Regulation and cannot therefore be changed by the Council.
- 5.3 As a matter of principle, all fees and charges should be set on the basis of full cost recovery. Also aligning fees across the 3 Local Authorities is proposed where appropriate.
- 5.4 In respect of all discretionary fees and the hourly rate, an inflationary 0.6 % rise has been applied. This inflationary rise will balance the increase in cost of service provision such as the cost of living salary rise.
- 5.5 Fees and charges have also been reviewed and in accordance with the request of the JPPC in December 2017 work has been carried out to review and where appropriate to update the fees in accordance with the principle of full cost recovery agreed previously by the JPPC. An internal review of the generic hourly rate (following the agreed methodology of the PPP agreed by JPPC in 2017) has been undertaken and confirmed to be an increase from £57 per hour to £59 per hour. This has not been increased for 2 years having being held at £57 in 2019/2020 and 2020/2021.
- 5.6 The Committee has discretion to recommend the rounding of the proposed fees to the nearest whole pound should they so resolve.
- 5.7 The attached appendices provide further detail with respect to fee setting, detail on the challenges faced by the licensing sector, an explanation of the Animal Establishment fees proposals and the JMB review of HMO licensing fees, and the proposed fees and charges for these activities.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix A – Supporting Information – Public Protection Fees and Charges
- 6.2 Appendix B – Supporting Information – Proposals for Fees, Animal Welfare Regulations 2018 and Housing Act 2004
- 6.3 Appendix C – Supporting Information – Full List of Proposed Fees and Charges for Public Protection Partnership

Background Papers:

JPPC Papers 28 September 2020

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: ☐ No: ☒

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval



Wards affected: All

Officer details:

Name: Sean Murphy
Job Title: Public Protection Committee
Tel No: 01635 519930
E-mail: sean.murphy@westberks.gov.uk
