

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
LICENSING COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 17 2010

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE LEGAL AND
REGULATORY SERVICES

1.0 LICENSING FUNCTIONS: DISCRETIONARY LICENCE FEES AND CHARGES

1.1 Purpose of report

1.2 To determine licensing fees and charges for 2010/2011.

2.0 Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan/Other Corporate Priority

The duties of the Council as a licensing authority are statutory in nature but many of the licensing objectives support the principal aims of the Corporate Improvement Plan and the Council's corporate priorities.

3.0 Background

3.1 The Licensing Committee has the power to determine fees charged in respect of those licensing functions within the purview of the Licensing Committee and to hear and determine objections relating to proposed fee revisions. A table of the current and proposed fees and charges is shown at Appendix 1.

3.2 The Council has a policy that, where permitted by legislation, the overall level of fees is set to recover the cost of providing the service. Members are requested to note however, that fees for the majority of the licensing functions are set by statute and the Council has no discretion to vary these fees. This report therefore includes only discretionary fees.

4.0 Current Situation/Proposal

4.1 The increases proposed for 2010/2011 are in line with the budget strategy approved by Council on 10 February 2010. An increase of 1.5% for licensing fees has been applied in line with inflation. The proposals include rounding up to the nearest whole £1 to ensure administrative efficiency with the exception of those fees charged by third parties or recharged to the department. No changes to the scope of existing fees are proposed except to make new provision to deal with applications to vary a Sports Ground Certificate where the variation involves a physical inspection of a ground or more significant work than an administrative amendment to a certificate. The proposed fee for an application is £414.00 (minimum) based on cost recovery.

5.0 Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

5.1 The Committees powers to set fees are outlined within the Council's Constitution.

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 The proposals recommended within the report are necessary for the administration of licensing functions.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 The proposals recommended within the report are necessary to recover the cost of providing the service.

8.0 Recommendation

8.1 Discretionary fee increases.

The Committee is recommended to approve the proposed fee increases, shown in Appendix 1 to be effective from 1 April 2010, with the exception of fees relating to taxi vehicle licences and operator licences which are subject to Public Notice and will become operative either 28 days following the expiration of the Public Notice, or, if objections are received, on a date to be determined by the Licensing Committee following formal consideration of the objections.

P A Jolley

Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services

Date: 11 February 2010

Contact Officer: Yvonne Witchell
Licensing and Registration Officer

Telephone: 01656 643105
e-mail: Yvonne.Witchell@bridgend.gov.uk
Postal address: Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend,
CF31 4WB

Background Documents: Report to Council 10 February 2010
Licensing Committee 18 March 2009 –
Table of approved fees