

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## LICENSING COMMITTEE

21 MARCH 2012

### 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 2012/2013.

#### **2.0 Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities**

2.1 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 2012/2013 are in line with the budget strategy approved by Council on 22 February 2012. An increase of 4.2% for licensing fees has been applied to in line with inflation, rounded up as necessary, with the exception of those fees (or parts of fees) charged by third parties or recharged to the department. No changes to the range or scope of existing fees are proposed.

#### **5.0 Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.**

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

## **6.0 Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 An equality impact assessment has been carried out and reported to Council in respect of the Final Revenue Budget 2011/12 to 2013/14 Medium Term Financial Plan.

## **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 2012 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: 15 March 2012**

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**Background Documents:**

**Report to Council 22 February 2012**