

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET30 November 2017Report by Chief Officer – (Legal & Procurement)LICENSING - CHARGING FOR SERVICES 2018/19**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to submit for approval the proposed licensing fees and charges for 2018/19.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet:-
- (a) Alters charges for 2017/18 in accordance with the table in Appendix 1. The increases are approximately 3.0% in line with inflation over the intervening period; and
 - (b) To end no cost licences for wheelchair accessible vehicles.

BACKGROUND

3. Legal Services, together with support from Customer First and Business Support sections, currently administers approximately 1,200 licences across various Civic Government and miscellaneous licensing categories. In terms of Civic Government legislation the licensing service must recover all the costs of providing the service through the fees charged. This requirement ensures that Council Tax payers, through main stream revenue budgets, are not being asked to subsidise the service. However, the total licensing income is not permitted to exceed the total cost of the service.

REPORT

4. Legal Services has not received any adverse comments regarding charging levels. It is proposed that fees and charges are raised by the recommended 3.0% inflation rate for charges commencing 1 April 2018.

The Licensing Committee has introduced a new policy requiring all new licences for taxis and private hire vehicles to be for wheelchair accessible vehicles only. Previously, the committee adopted a voluntary approach to the provision of these vehicles and licences were provided free of charge for the last two financial years. With the adoption of the new compulsory policy and with regard to the sustainability of the service, it is proposed that the no cost licences are no longer offered.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

5. It is anticipated that the changes applied at present will allow the Council to continue to recover the costs of licensing in full from licensing fees and charges. Legal Services continues to update and seek efficiencies in licensing where appropriate.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

6. There are no implications in terms of staffing, property, legal, IT, equalities and sustainability except that the continuation of zero rate licences may improve equalities across East Renfrewshire and new, modernised ways of working may improve efficiencies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

7. It is recommended that the Cabinet:-

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- (b) To end no cost licences for wheelchair accessible vehicles.

REPORT AUTHOR

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APPENDIX 1

Charging Classification and Policy for 2018/19

	Service	Current Charge 2017/18	Proposed Charge 2018/19	Proposal
	Licensing			
1.	Taxi Operator's Licence 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£194 £388 £490	£200 £400 £505	change
2.	Taxi Operator's Licence (WAV) 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£0.00 £0.00 £0.00	£200 £400 £505	change
3.	Taxi Driver's Licence 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£ 89 £177 £213	£ 90 £180 £220	change
4.	Private Hire Operator's Licence 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£177 £280 £449	£180 £290 £460	change
5.	Private Hire Operator's Licence (WAV) 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£0.00 £0.00 £0.00	£180 £290 £460	change
6.	Private Hire Driver's Licence 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£ 84 £168 £201	£ 90 £175 £210	change
7.	Street Trader's Licence (business/owner) 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£164 £261 £397	£170 £270 £410	change
8.	Street Trader (employee)	£ 84 £168 £201	£ 90 £175 £210	change
9.	Window Cleaner's Licence (business/owner) 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£178 £359 £430	£185 £370 £445	change
10.	Window Cleaner (employee)	£ 84 £168 £201	£ 90 £175 £210	change

	Service	Current Charge 2016/17	Proposed Charge 2017/18	Proposal
11.	Public Entertainment Licence 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£254 £514 £617	£260 £530 £635	change
12.	Public Entertainment Sunbed Licence 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£254 £514 £617	£265 £530 £635	change
13.	Market Operator's Licence 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£254 £514 £617	£265 £530 £635	change
14.	Late Hours Catering Licence 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£178 £359 £430	£185 £370 £440	change
15.	Second Hand Dealer's Licence 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£164 £239 £397	£170 £250 £410	change
16.	Indoor Sports Entertainment Licence 1 y /(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£205 £373 £447	£210 £385 £460	change
17.	Skin Piercing 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£254 £514 £617	£260 £530 £635	change
18.	Theatre Licence (1 year)	£139	£145	change
19.	Vehicle Inspection Fee (Admin) (Annual)	£ 26	£ 27	change
20.	Vehicle Partial Retest Fee (Admin)	£ 12.10	£ 12.50	change
21.	ID Badge Replacement	£ 12.10	£ 12.50	change
22.	Vehicle Substitution Fee	£ 53	£ 55	change
23.	Licence Variation Fee	£ 53	£ 55	change
24.	Front Vehicle Licence Plate Inserts	£ 7.70	£ 8	change
25.	Rear Vehicle Licence Plate Inserts	£ 8.80	£ 9	change
26.	Number Plate Bracket Kit	£ 8.80	£ 9	change
27.	Number Plate Bracket Rigid Bridge Kit	£ 3.90	£ 4	change
28.	Number Plate Platform Kit Flat	£ 5.40	£ 6	change
29.	Platform Flexiplate Kit Size 2	£ 7.70	£ 8	change
30.	Platform Flexiplate Kit Size 4	£ 8.70	£ 9	change
31.	Strapping Accessory Kit	£ 5.40	£ 6	change
32.	Quick Release Button & Key Set	£ 1.20	£ 1.50	change
33.	No Smoking Sticker	£ 2.10	£ 2.50	change

	Service	Current Charge 2016/17	Proposed Charge 2017/18	Proposal
34.	Tariff Sheet	£ 3.30	£ 3.50	change
35.	Taxi Driver Test	£ 46	£ 47.50	change
36.	Taxi/Private Hire Booking Offices 1 yr /(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£254 £514 £617	£260 £530 £635	change
37.	Knife Dealer's Licence 1 yr /(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£103 £205 £246	£105 £210 £255	change
38.	Metal Dealer 1 yr/(Temp) 2 yrs 3 yrs	£167 £335 £351	£170 £345 £360	change
39.	Notification of changes and alterations Civic Government Licences	£ 18	£ 19	change
40.	Same day service surcharge (where applicable)	£41	£ 42	change
41.	Monthly or part monthly licences in respect of private hire and taxis to be charged at 1/12 th of the yearly rate.			

* Charging Recovery Policy is to recover full cost.

* Classification is Statutory Charge

* Charges are rounded to the nearest £5 if over £100, nearest pound if over £10 and the nearest 50p if under £10

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