

ANGUS COUNCIL

CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE – 19 FEBRUARY 2015

REVIEW OF FEE STRUCTURE

REPORT BY SHEONA C HUNTER, HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this report is to recommend an increase of fees charged in respect of licences issued under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and other miscellaneous statutes.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to:-

- (i) approve the revised fee structure contained in **Appendix 1**; and
- (ii) agree an implementation date of 1 April 2015.

**2. BACKGROUND**

Sections 12 & 15 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 obliges the Council to ensure that the total amount of fees charged by it is sufficient to meet the expenditure incurred in carrying out the functions of the licensing authority under that Act. By reviewing fees on an annual basis large increases such as were previously experienced can be avoided. The last review of fees was carried out on 20 February 2014 at which time an average increase of 3.5% for both new and renewal applications was approved to take effect from 1 April 2014.

Following a detailed review, a general percentage rise of approximately 3.5% has been identified as being required for the forthcoming financial year. A new fee structure is proposed and is attached at Appendix 1 which, for comparison purposes, also shows the current structure.

Whilst the increase in the proposed new structure for council fees is approximately 3.5% for both new and renewal applications, the variance between figures can be explained in the rounding process as a number of fees have been rounded to provide more manageable figures.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has yet to confirm the level of fees which it will charge for Houses in Multiple Occupation inspections. Inspection fees are therefore the same as last year's fees but if Scottish Fire and Rescue Service increase their inspection fees, a commensurate increase will be made to the fee charged to applicants.

It is proposed that the increased fees, if accepted, will be implemented from 1 April 2015.

**3. RISKS**

This report does not require any specific risk issues to be addressed.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

If approved the review of fees should result in increased income of approximately £5,000 to the Council which will offset increased costs of administering the licensing functions.

**NOTE:** No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Revised Fee Structure