

Subject:	Fees and Charges 2013/14		
Date of Meeting:	6th February 2013		
Report of:	Strategic Director, Place		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Tim Nichols	Tel: 29-2163
	Email:	tim.nichols@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 This report sets out some of the proposed fees and charges for Regulatory Services (Environmental Health & Licensing and Trading Standards) for 2013/14. Discretionary local authority licence fees were considered by Licensing Committee on 22 November 2012.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the proposed fees and charges for 2013/14 as set out in the report are agreed.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Fees and Charges are assumed to increase by a standard inflation rate each year, which is 2% for 2013/14.
- 3.2 It is not always possible when amending a fee to increase it by exactly 2% each year. For example, some fees are increased by between 1.4% and 4.2% due to rounding up as appropriate. Fees for pest control flea treatment have been reduced this year in order for them to be competitive with private firms and neighbouring local authorities. The reduction in income should be offset by an increase in demand. A call out fee is introduced to avoid non-productive visits. The pest control fees are reduced as a one year trial to gauge demand.
- 3.3 There are some fees and charges which are quoted inclusive of VAT, for example pollution management. Tariffs which are inclusive of VAT are marked in the appendices.
- 3.4 Fees are reviewed annually as part of the budget and service planning process, with a view to ensuring that they remain compliant with fees and charges policy.

Trading Standards

- 3.5 The majority of fees and charges will increase in line with the corporate rate of inflation, 2%. The exceptions to this are licences for explosives which are set by

legislation. These are reviewed annually by the Health and Safety Executive and may be subject to change at a later date. Other charges, such as Weights and Measures verification fees, are compared with nearest neighbours to ensure that there is consistency for businesses. Previous poisons fees were increased following benchmarking with near neighbours. Fees of £35 for new registrations and £10 for renewal are comparable with Sussex County Councils.

- 3.6 Due to the lack of support by local businesses to undertake Underage Sales Training, it is proposed to remove the charge to businesses in order to support local businesses, support the work of the Alcohol Programme Board and encourage compliance with age restricted sales and licensing legislation. The revised fees are given in Appendix 1.

Environmental Health

- 3.7 The majority of fees and charges will increase in line with the corporate rate of Inflation, 2%. The exception to this is the fee for Environmental Permitting which is set by statute. Most dog regulation charges and fixed penalties are set externally.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 No specific consultation was undertaken in relation to this report.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The Budget Process Report 2010/11 agreed at Cabinet in July 2009, specified that Fees and Charges are assumed to increase by a standard inflation rate each year, which is 2% for 2012/13. Therefore, there is a proposed increase of 2% (rounded where necessary) for the majority of the fees and charges covered by this report, excluding those set by statute.

Finance Officer Consulted: Karen Brookshaw Date: 04/01/13

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The Council is required to follow a transparent and proportionate process in setting fees and charges (in compliance with the EU Services Directive of 2009). The fees themselves must be set in accordance with the requirements of the legislation under which they are charged. For some fees, this will mean the Council has no discretion when setting the fees, in other cases the Council is able to set fees at a reasonable level, which means a level which will recover the cost of providing the service, including central overheads and capital financing. The proposals in this report comply with the above requirements.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert Date: 18th December 2012

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Management of fees is fundamental to achievement of Council priorities. Council fees and charges policy aims to increase the proportion of costs met by the

service user. Charges, where not set externally, are raised by corporate inflation rate unless there are legitimate anti-poverty considerations.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 There are no proposals to set fees where full cost recovery cannot be reasonably expected.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 There are no direct public health implications arising from this report.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 The Council's financial position impacts on levels of Council tax and service levels and therefore has citywide implications.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Not applicable.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Proposed Fees & Charges 2013/14

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None.

Background Documents

1. None.

