

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE

28 JANUARY 2016

Title:

**FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2016/2017 – 2018/2019
LICENSING BUDGET 2016/2017**

[Wards Affected: All]

[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Wyatt Ramsdale]

Summary and purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's agreement to its draft Revenue Estimates and Fees and Charges for 2016/17 as part of the Budget process.

This report updates the Committee on the latest position regarding the draft General Fund Budget for 2016/17.

The recommendations from the Licensing and Regulatory Committee will be reported to the Executive on 2 February 2016 and to Council on 16 February 2016.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

A robust budget setting process is required to deliver the Corporate Priorities.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

There are no direct equality and diversity implications as a result of the recommendations of this report.

Resource/Value for Money implications:

All decisions made with regard to the Budget will impact on Waverley's resources.

Legal implications:

Reg 18(4) Provision of Services Regulations 2009 provides that charges under an authorisation scheme must be reasonable and proportionate to, and not exceed, the cost of the procedures and formalities under the scheme. The fees can include the administrative costs involved, the costs of vetting the applicants (in the case of applications) and the cost of investigating compliance with licence terms (in the case of renewals). A fee cannot include costs of enforcement. The proposals comply with these requirements.

Introduction

1. The report puts forward proposals for the Licensing Service Revenue Estimates and Fees and Charges for 2016/17.

General Fund Background

2. Over the past few years Waverley has faced significant financial pressures and a further reduction has been applied to Waverley's government grants in 2016/17 on top of the very substantial reductions already made, resulting in significant savings required over the next four years in addition to those already achieved.

'Star Chamber' Proposals

3. 'Star Chamber' sessions have again taken place with Portfolio Holders and Heads of Service to examine operational and staffing budgets in detail. However, none of the proposals impact directly on the Licensing Service.

2015/2016 Draft Licensing Estimates

4. The Licensing and Regulatory Committee's 2016/17 Estimates are attached at Annexe 1.
5. Annexe 2 provides an analysis of Licensing costs and income for 2016/17, showing the estimated recovery rates. This annexe also demonstrates that the enforcement costs (around 10% of costs) are not recovered through fees.

Fees and Charges

6. Fees and charges are reviewed annually as part of the budget process. Some fees and charges are statutory but for those determined by Waverley, a comprehensive exercise has been undertaken this year to analyse the fees and ensure that they equate to the costs of the service provided. Any anomalies identified as part of this review will be presented to the Committee in due course. Meanwhile for 2016-17, the proposed fees and charges for the Licensing Service are at Annexe 3.
7. In accordance with Section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, any proposed increase to certain fees must be advertised and this relates to hackney carriage proprietors' licences, private hire vehicle licences and private hire operators' licences. Any representations received in response to the advertisement will be brought back to the Licensing and Regulatory Committee in due course.

Conclusion

8. The decisions and recommendations of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee will be reported to the Executive on 2 February 2016. The final budget proposals will be presented to Council on 16 February 2016 based on the recommendations made by the Executive.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. agrees its draft Revenue Estimates for 2016/17 as shown at Annexe 1; and

2. approves the level of fees and charges for 2016/17 in accordance with the schedule at Annexe 3 for recommendation to the Council, noting that various fees will be subject to advertisement prior to implementation.

Background Papers

Local Government Finance Settlement 2016/17; Financial Strategy 2016/17 – 2018/19; Finance Seminar slides; Community Strategy; Revenue Budget 2015/16.

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