

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**CIVIC LICENCING COMMITTEE – 27 MARCH 2025**

**REVIEW OF FEES**

**REPORT BY ACTING DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE AND CHANGE**

**1. ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this Report is to recommend a percentage increase in fees charged (with the exception of Short-term Let and Taxi and Private Hire driver and operator applications) in respect of licences issued under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act and other miscellaneous statutes.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES**

- 2.1 Not Applicable.

**3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee: -
- (i) approve the revised fee structure contained in **APPENDIX 1**; and
  - (ii) agree an implementation date of 8 April 2025.

**4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Sections 12 and paragraph 15 of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (“the 1982 Act”) 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.
- 4.2 In terms of section 12, Taxi and Private Hire driver and operator fees are reviewed in September each year. Short-term Let fees were addressed by way of a separate report to this Committee in May 2024, report number 155/24. For the avoidance of doubt, this report does not consider the fees associated with these licences.
- 4.3 The fees for applications associated with The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 were set in 2022. The last full review of the remaining fees was carried out in 2024 to take effect from 8 April 2024.

**5. CURRENT POSITION**

- 5.1 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 fees is approximately 5%, the variance between figures can be explained in the rounding process as some fees have been rounded to provide more manageable figures. It is proposed that the increased fees, if accepted, will be implemented from 8 April 2025.

**6. PROPOSALS**

- 6.1 Following the percentage increase of 5% recommended and applied by Members of Angus Council at the Council Tax Setting Budget Meeting on 27 February 2025 by virtue of Report 53/25 “Review of Charges within Legal Governance and Change Directorate”, a general

percentage rise of approximately 5% is proposed as being required for the forthcoming financial year.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no negative implications to the Council arising from the terms of this Report. If approved the review of fees should result in increased income to the Council which will offset the increased inflationary costs of administering the licensing functions.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

8.1 There are no risks to the Council arising from the terms of this Report.

## **9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## **10. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY**

10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as the report is technical and is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics.

## **11. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

11.1 The "General Principles" do not apply to this proposal.

## **12. CONSULTATION (IF APPLICABLE)**

12.1 The Director of Finance has been consulted on the terms of this Report.

**NOTE:** The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are: (list them below):

Report 53/25 "Review of Charges for the Legal Governance and Change Directorate

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – proposed new fee structure