



Subject:	Fees for Entertainments Licences
Date:	14th December, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager, ext: 2435
Contact Officer:	Laura Hillis, Principal Control Surveyor, ext: 2469

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To inform the Committee of the decision of the Department for Communities that fees for the renewal of Entertainments Licences will, on 6th April 2023, revert to pre-April 2021 levels.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the decision of the Department for Communities.
3.0	Background
3.1	In February 2021, the Department for Communities determined that a reduced fee of £1 would apply to applications for the renewal of all categories of Entertainments Licence, both indoor and outdoor, received on or after 6th April, 2021.

3.2	This reduction was introduced to alleviate the hardship being experienced by the hospitality industry because of COVID-19 restrictions.
3.3	In March 2022, the Department informed the Council that the nominal fee of £1 for renewal applications would remain for the 2022/23 financial year, subject to a further review later this year.
3.4	Additional funding of some £17m provided by the Executive for council losses incurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic included provision to cover any loss of income resulting from the reduction in fees for the renewal of Entertainment Licences for 2022/23.
4.0	Key Issues
4.1	In a letter to the Council, dated 15th November 2022, the Department for Communities, having carried out a further review, has advised of its determination of the fees for Entertainment Licences.
4.2	In the letter, the Department acknowledges that reduced licence fees have, undoubtedly, helped ease some of the financial burden for businesses in the hospitality industry, however, with the removal of all remaining COVID-19 restrictions earlier this year, licence holders will by April 2023 have had a year to return to a normal trading footing.
4.3	The Department is of the view that there is no need to continue with this easement beyond the end of the 2022/23 financial year and, therefore, fees for renewal entertainment licences will, with effect from 6 April 2023, revert to pre-April 2021 levels.
4.4	Details of the revised fees, effective from 6th April 2023, are set out in the attached formal determination.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
5.1	None.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
6.1	None.
7.0	Document Attached
	DfC Letter and determination