



Subject:	Fees for Street Trading Licences
Date:	18th January, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager, ext. 2435
Contact Officer:	Patrick Cunningham, Assistant Building Control Manager, ext. 6446

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 report on the outcome of the public consultation on the proposed fees for Street Trading Licences.
1.2	Members will recall that, at your meeting on 15th June, 2016, regarding the review of Street Trading Licence Fees, the Committee agreed to the proposed fees, as presented, and to initiate a consultation process with licence holders.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the contents of the report and, taking into account any representations received, agree: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. to set the fees for Street Trading Licences at the level outlined in the public consultation, or2. to set the fees for Street Trading Licences at an alternative level, or3. that further options for fees for Street Trading Licences arising from your discussions are developed to be presented at your next meeting.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	Members are reminded that the Street Trading Act N.I. 2001 gives the Council powers that it may charge such fees as may be sufficient to cover any reasonable administrative or other costs in connection with the administration of the Street Trading Licence Scheme.

3.2 To remind Committee, below is a summary of the proposed fees you agreed provisionally at your meeting on 15th June:

	Fee
STATIONARY and MOBILE LICENCE	
Application Fee - <i>Non refundable</i>	£617
Renewal Application Fee - <i>Non refundable</i>	£523
Licensed for Monday to Friday	£1,500
Licensed for Monday to Sunday	£1,570
Licensed for Weekend	£1,350
Licensed for Sunday	£1,220
TEMPORARY LICENCE	
Application Fee - <i>Non refundable</i>	£677
Licence Fee	£130
Variation of Licence Particulars	£440

- 3.3** Consultation on the proposed fees was for the statutory 28 day period, as required by the Act.
- 3.4** Notice of the consultation was published in the three main newspapers and 76 licensed street traders were written to, including all known Temporary Street Traders, some of whom may only trade once a year.
- 3.5** The consultation sought the views from interested parties and a statement outlining how the fees were prepared was published and made available on the Council's website and at the Building Control offices.
- 3.6** As a result of the consultation, a total of 23 responses were received, which included 17 received by email or letter and a further 6 responses were received online.
- 3.7** Of the 6 responses received online, 2 identified themselves as being non-traders and only 1 of the remaining 4 online respondents identified themselves by name.
- 3.8** Arising from the consultation 2 of the online respondents agreed with some of the proposed fees, it is not known if these were street traders. Copies of the written correspondence and a synopsis of the online responses received are attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.9** Correspondence was received from the Right Honourable, Jim Shannon MP, in which he expressed concern that the proposed increases would have an adverse effect on the ability of the ice cream trade to continue trading, which would affect the tourist industry within the Belfast area and within his own constituency of Strangford.
- 3.10** Mr Shannon has stated that, whilst businesses should expect a reasonable increase in fees, in no way can those proposed be determined as reasonable.
- 3.11** A copy of Mr. Shannon's response is attached at Appendix 2.

Summary of Responses

3.12 All of the street traders who responded (26% of the total consulted) indicated that their business would be affected by the proposals and did not want any increase in fee; conversely 74% chose not to respond.

3.13 The Street Traders who responded and identified themselves, hold the following types of Street Trading Licences:

Licence Types	Number	%
Stationary	6	35.30%
Mobile	6	35.30%
Temporary	1	5.80%
Stationary & Temporary	2	11.80%
Mobile & Temporary	2	11.80%

3.14 A number of responses made reference to what other Councils currently charge and a few stated that “*street trading charges are no were (sic) near this in England or in the Republic*”.

Comparisons

3.15 Research on the cost of a Street Trading Licence in other larger local authorities across Great Britain and Ireland has been undertaken.

3.16 For comparison, the cost of a 7-day Stationary Street Trading Licence for one year was taken as an example and a sample of fees charged by other councils is provided below:

Council	Annual fee
Westminster City Council	£38,991
Oxford City Council	£8,110
Swansea City Council	£4,994
Birmingham City Council	£4,704
Newcastle City Council	£1,442
Manchester City Council	£720
Aberdeen City Council	£178
Newry, Mourne and Down Council	£875
Lisburn City and Castlereagh Council	£570
Causeway Coast and Glens Council	£290

3.17 Dublin City Council’s charges varied significantly across the City. It charges €8,000 for Grafton Street for flowers from Monday to Saturday and €6,000 for night time trade.

3.18 For further comparison, the table below shows the current fee, the current fee adjusted to take account of inflation alone and the proposed fee.

STATIONARY LICENCE	Current	Inflation	Proposed
Application Fee - Non refundable	£ 100	£ 149.00	£617
Renewal Application Fee - Non refundable			£523
Licensed for Monday to Friday	£ 629	£ 937.21	£1,500
Licensed for Monday to Sunday	£ 1017	£ 1515.33	£1,570
Licensed for Weekend*	£ 898	£ 1338.02	£1,350
Licensed for Sunday	£ 472	£ 703.28	£1,220

MOBILE LICENCE	Current	Inflation	Proposed
Application Fee - <i>Non refundable</i>	£ 120	£ 178.80	£617
Renewal Application Fee - <i>Non refundable</i>			£523
Licensed for Monday to Friday	£ 429	£ 639.21	£1,500
Licensed for Monday to Sunday	£ 882	£ 1314.18	£1,570
Licensed for Weekend*	£ 225	£ 674.97	£1,350
Licensed for Sunday	£ 254	£ 378.46	£1,220
TEMPORARY LICENCE			
Application Fee - <i>Non refundable</i>	£120	£ 178.80	£677
Licence Fee	£211	£ 314.39	£130
Variation of Licence Particulars	£50	£74.50	£440

**Weekend is the current Saturday and Sunday fee combined.*

Financial and Resource Implications

3.19 There are significant financial and resource implication associated with this report.

3.20 The proposed Street Trading Licence fees will ensure the cost of the operational and administration processes are proportionate to the licensing scheme. Details outlining the costings associated with administering Street Trading Licences are attached at Appendix 3.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

3.21 The Council's Equality and Diversity Officer has been consulted to ensure there are no issues with regards to the setting of fees.

4.0 Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Copies of written correspondences and synopsis of the responses to the consultation

Appendix 2 – Copy of Jim Shannon's response to the consultation

Appendix 3 – Costings associated with administering street trading licences