

Licensing Committee

29 March 2018

Is the final decision on the recommendations in this report to be made at this meeting?

Yes

Animal Establishment Fees 2018/2019

Final Decision-Maker	Licensing Committee
Lead Head of Service	John Littlemore, Head of Housing and Community Services
Lead Officer/Report Author	Lorraine Neale
Classification	Non-exempt
Wards affected	All

This report makes the following recommendation:

1. That the Licensing Committee approve the fee levels as set out in paragraph 2.6 of the report for implementation on 1 April 2018.

This report relates to the following Five Year Plan Key Objectives:

- Securing a successful economy for Maidstone Borough
- It is proposed to set fees which enable the authority to be self-financing with respect to this service.

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Licensing Committee	29 March 2018

Animal Establishment Fees 2018/2019

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The authority is required to review the fees set for the administration and compliance check of the Animal Establishment Licensing. This ensures the Council complies with its statutory duty and that the licensing of Animal Establishments is self-financing, in accordance with the Council's Financial Strategy.
 - 1.2 A fees model, similar to the one used to first set the Gambling Act fees in 2007 was used to determine the proposed fees for 2017 onwards.
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2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Animal Establishment Licensing service is required to be self-financing and the proposed increases to fees will ensure this is maintained.
- 2.2 Where possible careful monitoring of income and expenditure has been carried out over the current financial year and the income from licence fees and associated costs, together with expenditure, has been in accordance with the objectives laid out in the budget plan and the inflation rate.
- 2.3 A fees model, similar to the one used to first set the Gambling Act fees in 2007, was used to calculate the proposed fees and charges. The fees have been calculated by examining the time it takes to carry out the various tasks in processing the application and who in the authority is likely to carry them out. The hourly rates of staff are fed in to a spread sheet (originally produced by the national support body for local authority regulators, LACORS, to calculate the Gambling Act fees) to calculate costs for each type of activity.
- 2.4 The type of tasks involved in animal establishment licensing applications include: assistance to the applicant, checking of an application upon receipt, compliance checks and processing the application. Once processed, types of tasks include: preparation and issuing of the licence and updating the records/register. Training of Officers and Members has also been included, as well as the cost of consumables.
- 2.5 At the Licensing Committee meeting on 16 June 2016 Members set fees which removed the veterinary surgeon's fees from the Council's fees for riding establishments. This was done following a request from a riding establishment. The establishments are now invoiced separately by the Environmental Enforcement team for the veterinary costs..
- 2.6 Proposed Animal Establishment fees from 1 April 2018 are:

	Fees from 1 st April 2017	Fees from 1 st April 2018
Animal Boarding		
Cats only		
Up to 30	£180	£185
31 - 60	£295	£305
Dogs only		
Up to 50	£350	£360
51 - 100	£440	£450
Cats and Dogs		
Up to 50	£290	£295
51 - 90	£430	£440
91 - 125	£565	£580
126+	£615	£630
Performing Animals	£165	£170
Dangerous Wild Animals	£450	£465
Zoo	£565 (plus deposit of £2,150)	£585 (plus deposit of £2,150)
Breeding of Dogs		
Up to 5 bitches	£290	£295
6 - 10	£415	£425
11 - 15	£540 for 11+ bitches	£550 for 11+ bitches
Pet Shops		
Initial licence	£410	£420
For additional licences, charge higher fee first	£85	£85
Horse Riding Establishments		
Up to and including 10 horses	£315 (excl. Vet's fees)	£320 (excl. Vet's fees)
11 horses and above	£425 (excl. Vet's fees)	£435 (excl. Vet's fees)

3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- 3.1 The fees and charges need to be reviewed to ensure that they are set at appropriate levels to recover the costs associated with providing the service. Having reviewed the income and expenditure the options available are:
- 3.2 To propose no changes or reductions to the existing fees. This would mean there would be a shortfall in income against the budget set for the function.
- 3.3 To approve the fees as set at in paragraph 2.6.

- 3.4 To propose a fee regime higher than the cost of delivering the service. However, if the Council were subject to Judicial Review it would not be in a position to justify the fees that have been set.

4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The option set out at Paragraph 3.3 to approve the fees set out in Paragraph 2.6 to ensure that the fee income reflects the cost of providing the service.

5. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

- 5.1 The fees will be charged with respect to new, existing and renewal applications from 1 April 2018 and published on our website.

6. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off (name of officer and date)
Impact on Corporate Priorities	No implications have been identified	[Head of Service or Manager]
Risk Management	No implications have been identified	[Head of Service or Manager]
Finance and other resources	It is necessary for the Council to deliver a balanced budget and cover the costs of providing this service.	[Section 151 Officer & Finance Team]
Staffing	No implications have been identified	[Head of Service]
Legal	Legal implications are set out in the body of the report.	Jayne Bolas, Solicitor Team Leader(Contentious)
Equality Impact Needs Assessment	No implications have been identified	[Policy & Information Manager]
Environmental/Sustainable Development	No implications have been identified	[Head of Service or Manager]
Community Safety	No implications have been identified	[Head of Service or Manager]
Human Rights Act	No implications have been identified	[Head of Service or Manager]
Procurement	No implications have been identified	[Head of Service & Section 151 Officer]

7. REPORT APPENDICES

None

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None