

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LICENSING & APPEALS COMMITTEE**

**11 March 2010**

**Report of the Central Services Director**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Decision**

**1 REVIEW OF LICENCE FEE FOR PET SHOPS**

**This report details an error made in the report to Members of the Licensing and Appeals Committee in January 2009.**

**1.1 Background**

1.1.1 At the meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee on 26 January 2009, a report was considered by Members, reviewing various fees and charges.

1.1.2 One of the fees reviewed by Members was the fee for a Pet Shop licence. In 2008 the fee for a Pet Shop licence was £195 per annum. The report detailed the average charge that adjoining local authorities were charging for this type of licence. The average figure reported to Members was £360 pa.

1.1.3 It has recently been brought to the Council's attention that the average figure charged by adjoining local authorities, and the figure which Members based their decision on, was unfortunately incorrectly reported. The average figure is £260 pa for a Pet Shop licence, not £360 pa as contained in the report to members on 26 January 2009.

**Pet Shop Licence Fees**

**Fee as of February 2010**

Medway	£293 – currently being reviewed
Tunbridge Wells	£136
Sevenoaks	£165 – currently being reviewed
Gravesham	£330
Maidstone	£378

Average charge = £260

## **1.2 Proposed Way Forward**

1.2.1 Members are invited to consider, in light of the correct figures being reported to them, if they wish to amend their decision made on 26 January 2009, which was to increase the Pet Shop licence fee from £195 pa to £240 pa. The current 2010 Pet Shop licence fee remains at £240 pa, and there is no proposal to increase this fee for 2010.

## **1.3 Legal Implications**

1.3.1 I have consulted my colleagues in Legal Services on the contents of this report, they have responded that the fee should represent a reasonable amount to cover the work of not only of processing the application for any given shop, but all resources necessary to provide for monitoring all existing premises (including the enforcement of unlicensed premises where no fee will have been paid) throughout the Borough. As the proposed fee remains below the average for adjoining authorities, it is not believed this amount could be regarded as unreasonable in the Legal sense.

## **1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

1.4.1 It is felt that the current licence fee of £240 pa is still a reasonable charge in comparison to the charges made by adjoining local authorities.

1.4.2 There are currently five Pet Shops within the Borough that are affected by this charge.

## **1.5 Risk Assessment**

1.5.1 Not applicable.

## **1.6 Recommendations**

1.6.1 Members are recommended to review the decision taken in January 2009, amending the current fee of £240 pa if felt necessary.

Background papers:

contact: Katie Iggulden

Licensing and Appeals Committee

26 January 2009

'Annual Review of Licence & Registration Fees'

Julie Beilby

Central Services Director