



# Northumberland

## County Council

COMMITTEE: LICENSING AND REGULATORY

DATE: 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022

### TITLE OF REPORT

Licensing Fees

**Report of Philip Soderquest, Director of Housing & Public Protection**

**Cabinet Member: Cllr Colin Horncastle, Portfolio Holder, Community Service**

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide information to committee in relation to fees and charges for licences under the following legislation.

- The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018
- Zoo Licensing Act 1981
- Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013
- Dangerous Wild Animal Act 1976
- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982 in relation to Tattooing and piercing.

### **Recommendations**

Members are requested to:

- Note the content of the report and the revised fees as set out within Appendix 1.
- Consider and debate the proposals, following which, determine whether to agree the fees, with or without modification, all of which would come into effect on the 1 January 2023.

### **Link to Corporate Plan**

This report is relevant to the Enjoying & Connecting priorities included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2021-2024

## **Key issues**

The Licensing Service is responsible for the administration and enforcement of a number of licensing regimes, where the relevant legislation allows for a fee to be charged for the provision of those services and the granting of the licence.

It is acknowledged that whilst businesses have restarted post covid, that many will be subject to additional costs arising from the cost of living crisis, and that this will be viewed as an additional pressure.

The council however is equally impacted by those same cost pressures, with CPI at 10.1%, and to maintain service delivery it is necessary to increase current fees and charges, which in respect of what is being proposed is circa 9%.

It would normally be expected that fees would be reviewed on an annual basis, but due to the onset of Covid and impact on most businesses, this has not happened since 2019, so current fees are lower that would be expected at this time.

Appendix A contains the list of current fees and charges and the proposed new fees.

Where applications require a vet inspection any charge by the vet is not included within the fees and is recharged to the applicant in addition to the licence fee.

## **Implications**

<b>Policy</b>	None
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	Any changes to fees will impact upon the income. However, it is expected that the licensing system will be cost recovery.
<b>Legal</b>	
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached)	None

Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	None
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	None
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	None
<b>Wards</b>	All

**Report sign off.**

***Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:***

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	
Relevant Executive Director	
Chief Executive	
Portfolio Holder(s)	Colin Horncastle

**Author and Contact Details**

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## Appendix A

<b>Licence Type</b>		<b>Current fee</b>	<b>Last reviewed</b>	<b>Proposed Fee</b>
Providing or arranging for the provision of boarding for cats or dogs *	Renewal application	£ 225.00	Oct-19	£248.00
	New application	£ 250.00	Oct-19	£275.00
Providing home boarding for dogs *	Renewal application	£ 225.00	Oct-19	£248.00
	New application	£ 250.00	Oct-19	£275.00
Providing day care for dogs *	Renewal application	£ 225.00	Oct-19	£248.00
	New application	£ 250.00	Oct-19	£275.00
Dog Breeding Establishment *	Renewal application	£ 225.00	Oct-19	£248.00
	New application	£ 250.00	Oct-19	£275.00
Hiring Out Horses *	Renewal application	£ 225.00	Oct-19	£248.00

	New application	£ 250.00	Oct-19	£275.00
Selling animals as pets *	Renewal application	£ 225.00	Oct-19	£248.00
	New application	£ 250.00	Oct-19	£275.00
Keeping or training animals for exhibition *	Renewal application	£ 240.00	Oct-19	£264.00
	New application	£ 240.00	Oct-19	£264 .00
Animal Licensing Further Fees *	Re-inspection fee	£ 75.00	Oct-19	£83.00
	Additional host licence fee	£ 80.00	Oct-19	£88.00
	Additional licensing activity fee	£ 229.00	Oct-19	£252.00
Tattoo/ Ear Piercing	Premises licence	£ 90.00	Aug-15	£99.00
	Personal licence	£ 55.00	Aug-15	£61.00
Scrap Metal	Site Licence	£ 650.00	Oct-13	£715.00
	Mobile Collector	£ 500.00	Oct-13	£550.00

Zoo licence *	1 species	£ 150.00	Aug-15	£165 .00
	2-5 species	£ 275.00	Aug-15	£303.00
	6+ species	£ 400.00	Aug-15	£440.00
Dangerous Wild Animal Act *	initial licence	£ 116.00	Aug-15	£250.00

\*Vet fees charged in addition to licence fee.