

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 26th MARCH, 2008

**REVENUE BUDGET 2008/09
CHARGES FOR CERTAIN SERVICES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH,
LICENSING AND TRADING STANDARDS**

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Cabinet approve changes in the price structure for charges for certain services in Environmental Health, Licensing and Trading Standards provided within the Department of Corporate Support.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 In December 1998, the Policy and Resources Committee approved a policy of charging which was based on the Accounts Commission publication 'The Challenge of Charging' (March 1998). The appendices to this report have been developed in accordance with the principles of this policy, taking into account such factors as current markets, comparable costs of other local authorities and the impact of customer demand.
- 2.2 Appendices 1 to 4 outline the existing and proposed charges for services on a service by service basis.
- 2.3 The increases submitted for approval in Appendices 1 to 3 will raise income by an average of approximately 3% which matches the assumptions made during the budget construction process.
- 2.4 It is proposed to reduce the charges for Pest Control work with the resultant anticipation of attracting a greater volume of business, service uptake and income. A proposed reduction in charges for Pest Control is outlined in Appendix 4. Over recent years there has been a decrease in the uptake of the Pest Control Service due to a number of factors including commercial competition, the current level of charges and the public perception of the level of charging. In the anticipation of generating more work and income by reducing the charges for Pest Control a number of operational arrangements are proposed:

2.4.1 The greatest demand on the Pest Control Service is during the summer months when insect activity is at its height. To accommodate the potential increase in uptake of the Service as a result of reduced charges,

during the forthcoming summer existing staff within the Environmental Health service will be utilised to take on any additional demand on the Service. A full assessment of the demand will be ongoing throughout the summer.

2.4.2. Based on the level of demand and the assessment of Service requirements consideration will be given to employ trained seasonal staff during the summer months in future years.

2.4.3. The availability of the Pest Control Service together with the proposed charges will be widely highlighted and promoted.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 It is difficult to accurately predict additional income since there are many factors outwith the control of the Council which can influence income levels during the year but it is felt the proposals, if approved, will meet planning assumptions.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The legislation relation to charges for services where appropriate can be summarised as follows:-
- i) Petroleum – Health & Safety (Fees) Regulations 2008
 - ii) Licensing – Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982
 - iii) Pest Control – Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949
 - iv) Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This review of charges has been carried out in line with the Council policy on charging for services and has taken account of the provisions of the Community Plan on access to services.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 As part of the normal base budget process for 2008/2009 a number of income lines which relate to charges were increased. This report consolidates the position taking into account relevant factors for each charging area.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Cabinet are recommended to:-

- (i) agree that the proposed charges outlined in Appendices 1 to 4 be implemented from 1 April 2008;
- (ii) that the report be otherwise noted.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

5TH March 2008

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Implementation officer – david.mitchell@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

TRADING STANDARDS

PETROLEUM FEES

Licence Categories	Current Fee 2007/2008	Anticipated Fee* 2008/2009
Under 2,500 litres	£39.00	£40.00
2,500 litres to 50,000 litres	£54.00	£55.00
50,000 litres and over	£111.00	£114.00
Transfer of Licence	£8.00	£8.00

- Petroleum Fees are laid down by Statutory Instrument (The Health & Safety (Fees) Regulations 2008) which are still to be published.

APPENDIX 2

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL – TRADING STANDARDS METROLOGICAL FEES 2008/2009	Current Fee 2007/2008	Proposed Fee 2008/2009
A – Chargeable Cost Recovery Rate Per Officer Hour		
The 2008/2009 guidance is based on a chargeable rate of £68.47 per Officer hour, designed to facilitate full cost recovery. When a visit is made by a Trading Standards Officer to any premises for the purpose of carrying out any of the functions or activities listed below, each visit may be subject to a minimum charge of £68.47 per Officer per visit regardless of the nature or amount of work requested or completed. Visits carried out partly or entirely outside of normal office hours may incur a surcharge of 50% on the standard fee or on the standard hourly rate per Officer per hour.	£66.48	£68.47
B – Special Weighing and Measuring Equipment		
<p>The charges for examining, testing, certifying, stamping, authorising or reporting on special weighing or measuring equipment may be individually calculated by a local authority based upon a figure of £68.47 per officer/hour at the place where the service is provided. Such types of equipment, specifically excluded from tables (C) to (I) below, include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Automatic or totalising weighing machines 2) Equipment designed to weigh loads in motion 3) Bulk fuel measuring equipment tested following a Regulation 65 or 66 occurrence 4) Weighing or measuring equipment tested by means of statistical sampling 5) The establishment of calibration curves from templets 6) Templets graduated in millilitres 7) Testing or other services in pursuance of a Community obligation other than EC initial or partial verification 	£66.48	£68.47
C - Weights		
1) Weights exceeding 5kg or not exceeding 500mg, 2CM	£7.64	£7.87
2) Other Weights	£5.62	£5.79

D – Measures		
1) Linear measures not exceeding 3m, for each scale	£8.65	£8.91
2) Capacity measures, without divisions, not exceeding 1 litre	£5.85	£6.02
3) Cubic ballast measures (other than brim measures)	£146.16	£150.54
4) Liquid capacity measures for making up and checking average quantity packages	£23.11	£23.80
5) Templets: (a) Per scale – first item	£40.48	£41.69
(b) Second and subsequent items	£15.61	£16.08
E – Weighing Instruments		
a) Non-EC		
Not exceeding 1 tonne	£52.46	£54.03
Exceeding 1 tonne to 10 tonne	£84.83	£87.37
Exceeding 10 tonnes	£177.50	£182.82
b) EC (NAWI)		
Not exceeding 1 tonne	£87.33	£89.95
Exceeding 1 tonne to 10 tonne	£141.21	£145.45
Exceeding 10 tonnes	£295.83	£304.70
<p>Note: When testing instruments incorporating remote display or printing facilities, and where completion of the test requires a second person or a second series of tests by the same person, an additional fee may be based upon the basic fee given above plus a 50% surcharge.</p> <p>Note: When supplying specialist equipment (including but not limited to weighbridge test unit, van and test weights, etc) an additional fee may be charged hourly, daily or per appointment, according to circumstance.</p>		
F – Measuring Instruments for Intoxicating Liquor		
1) Not exceeding 150ml	£14.42	£14.85
2) Other	£16.63	£17.13

G – Measuring Instruments for Liquid Fuel and Lubricants		
1) Container type (unsubdivided)	£60.31	£62.12
2) Single/multi-outlets (nozzles): First nozzle tested, per site	£98.40	£101.35
Each additional nozzle tested	£60.41	£62.22
3) Testing of peripheral electronic equipment on a separate visit (per site)	£66.37	£68.36
4) Testing of credit card acceptor (per unit, regardless of no. of slots/nozzles/pumps)	£66.37	£68.36
H – Road Tanker Fuel Measuring Equipment (above 100 litres)		
1) Meter measuring systems		
a) Wet hose with two testing liquids	£211.16	£217.49
b) Wet hose with three testing liquids	£246.37	£253.76
c) Dry hose with two testing liquids	£234.61	£241.65
d) Dry hose with three testing liquids	£269.81	£277.90
e) Wet/dry hose with two testing liquids	£328.46	£338.31
f) Wet/dry hose with three testing liquids	£351.92	£362.48
2) Dipstick measuring systems		
a) Up to 7,600 litres (for calibration of each compartment and production of chart) (NB: for any compartment over 7,600 litres, basic fee plus additional costs at the rate of £68.47 per extra officer/hour).	£143.71	£148.02
b) Initial dipstick	£16.63	£17.13
c) Spare dipstick	£16.63	£17.13
d) Replacement dipstick (including examination of compartment)	£36.51	£37.60
I – Certificate of Errors		
For supplying a certificate containing results of errors found on testing (Certificate supplied upon request of the submitter; fee applies when no other fee is payable)	£33.21	£34.21

EAC fees are, on average, 6.2% above LACORS recommendations but fees must remain competitive with other Trading Standards authorities. Failure to be competitive would result in traders taking mobile equipment to other authorities for verification.

Due to a recent HMCE ruling, most of the above fees will be subject to VAT from 01/04/08. However, until the proposed Legislative Reform Order comes into force, VAT will only apply to work for which we have competition. After the Order comes into force, we must charge VAT on all verification work except EEC stampings.

APPENDIX 3

**CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982
APPLICATION FEES ETC TO HAVE EFFECT
FROM 1 APRIL 2008**

TYPE OF LICENCE	EXISTING 2007/08	PROPOSED 2008/09
Taxi Operators	417.00	430.00
PHC Operators	417.00	430.00
Taxi/PHC Drivers (Grant)	173.00	178.00
Taxi/PHC Drivers (Renewal)	125.00	129.00
Street Traders	211.00	217.00
Street Traders (Employee)	106.00	109.00
Second Hand Car Dealers	310.00	320.00
Second Hand Dealers (General)	211.00	217.00
Metal Dealers	211.00	217.00
Metal Dealers (Exemption Warrant)	39.00	40.00
Market Operators - £19.50 per stall with minimum fee of	378.00	390.00
Public Entertainment	211.00	217.00
Public Entertainment – Festivals, raves, etc. Min Fee of £3,850.00 or 1% of gross income	3,750.00	3,850.00
Late Hours Catering	211.00	217.00
Houses in Multiple Occupation – Grant	480.00	495.00
Renewal	300.00	310.00
Sex Shops	375.00	385.00
Skin Piercing and Tattooing	250.00	260.00
Window Cleaners	211.00	217.00
Window Cleaners (Employee)	106.00	109.00
Window Cleaners (Employee – 1 year licence)	43.00	45.00
Application for 12 days or less in any one year, provided that attendance during the period of licence is less than 500 persons	42.00	44.00
Temporary Licence	136.00	140.00
Certified True Copy of a Licence	32.00	33.00
Consideration of Material Change of Circumstances	70.00	72.00

VEHICLE TESTING FEES

DESCRIPTION	EXISTING 2007/08	PROPOSED 2008/09
Vehicle Test	107.00	110.00
Vehicle Re-Test	54.50	56.00
Meter Test	35.00	36.00

**MISCELLANEOUS LICENSING
APPLICATION FEES ETC TO HAVE EFFECT
FROM 1 APRIL 2008**

TYPE OF LICENCE	EXISTING 2007/08	PROPOSED 2008/09
Animal Boarding – plus vet fees	83.50	86.00
Breeding of Dogs – plus vet fees	83.50	86.00
Pet Shops – plus vet fees	83.50	86.50
Dangerous Wild Animals – plus vet fees	156.00	160.00
Riding Establishments – plus vet fees	136.00	140.00
Game Dealers	45.00	46.00
Venison Dealers	190.00	195.00
Cinemas – annual (Fixed by statute)	600.00	600.00
Monthly (% of max fee)	166.00	166.00
Transfer (% of max fee)	107.00	107.00
Theatres	262.00	270.00
Fireworks Registration (Fixed by statute)	86.00	86.00
Renewal of Registration	43.00	43.00
Fireworks Licence (Fixed by statute)	144.00	144.00
Renewal of Licence	79.00	79.00
Explosives Registration (Fixed by statute)	86.00	86.00
Renewal of Registration	43.00	43.00
Poison Registration – grant	27.00	28.00
renewal	13.50	14.00
change	7.50	8.00
Zoo Licensing	676.00	700.00
Display at Kilmarnock Cross/Glaisnock Centre, etc.-	17.50	18.00
Charitable Organisations	87.00	90.00
Armed Forces, etc	167.00	172.00
Commercial Organisations		
Mini-bus Permits	17.5 0	17.50
Registration of Society Lotteries (Fixed by statute)	40.00	40.00
Renewal of Registration	20.00	20.00

PEST CONTROL CHARGES

	CURRENT CHARGE 2007/08	PROPOSED CHARGE 2008/09
RAT INFESTATION	£50.00	Domestic : £30.00 Commercial : To be charged according to circumstances following survey.
MICE INFESTATION	£50.00	Domestic : £30.00 Commercial : To be charged according to circumstances following survey.
ERADICATION OF WASPS/BEEES NEST	£40.00	£30.00
ERADICATION OF INSECT INFESTATION	£40.00	£30.00
FUMIGATIONS	To be charged according to circumstances.	To be charged according to circumstances.

NB. Charges are exclusive of VAT

Rodent treatments will include up to three visits.