



Committee

Strategic Licensing Committee

Date and Time

7 October 2026
Public

Licensing Fees and Charges 2027 - 2028

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Roger Evans – Portfolio Holder for Finance	
Lead Director:	Richard Philips Service Director - Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)	
Service Area:	Transactional Management and Licensing	
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Electoral Divisions Affected	All	
Key Decision?	Not Key Decision	
Cabinet Forward Plan	Not Applicable	
Report considered by	Strategic Licensing Committee 7 October 2026	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report proposes the revision of licensing fees where the authority has the discretion to determine the relevant fees for the financial year from 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2028.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Committee notes the statutory fees that Shropshire Council is required to charge in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 as set out in **Appendix A**, in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005 as set out in **Appendix B** and in accordance with explosives and fireworks legislation as set out in **Appendix C** and recommends that the authority implements these fees (or if subject to statutory

amendment, the relevant amended fees) on the 1 April 2027 and instructs the Transactional Management and Licensing Team Manager to arrange for the fees to be included in the 2027/28 annual fees and charges reports that are presented to Cabinet and Council and further instructs the Transactional Management and Licensing Team Manager to implement, as appropriate, any other statutory fees that may be brought into force during the 2027/28 financial year and to publish all relevant statutory fees on the licensing pages of the Council's website as soon as is practicable.

- 2.2. That the Committee implements, with any necessary modification and with effect from 1 April 2027 the proposed fees as set out in **Appendices D, E, F, G, H and I** that relate to those licences and licensing related activities where the authority has the discretion to determine the fees and instructs the Transactional Management and Licensing Team Manager to arrange for the fees to be included in the 2027/28 annual fees and charges reports that are presented to Cabinet and Council and further instructs the Transactional and Licensing Team Manager to publish the fees on the licensing pages of the Council's website as soon as is practicable.
- 2.3. That the Committee instructs the Transactional Management and Licensing Team Manager to arrange for the proposed fees as set out in **Appendix F**, with any necessary modification, to be included in the 2027/28 annual fees and charges reports that are presented to Cabinet and Council and, where necessary, in respect of those fees a note is recorded in the said annual reports stating 'Provisional fees under consultation fees to be confirmed by the Strategic Licensing Committee.
- 2.4. That the Committee agrees the Relevant Protected Site fees policy as set out at **Appendix J** and instructs the Transactional Management and Licensing Team Manager to published the fees policy on the licensing pages of the Council's website.

3. Background

- 3.1 The principle of cost recovery under licensing legislation applies to the licensing of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles, operators and drivers. It also extends to sex establishments, street trading, acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin colouring, cosmetic piercing, electrolysis, zoos, providing day care for dogs, breeding for dogs, boarding for cats, kennel boarding, home boarding, selling animals as pets, keeping or training animals for exhibition, hiring out horses, dangerous wild animals, scrap metal dealers, pleasure boats/vessels, distribution of free printed matter, residential caravan sites, some explosives and fireworks licences, together with the issuing of various licences under the Gambling Act 2005.
- 3.2 Caravan sites are currently licensed by the Council under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960, as amended by the Mobile Homes Act 2013. The amendment to the 1960 Act permits the Council to charge fees for the licensing of residential caravan sites.

- 3.3 The financial modelling tool, referred to in paragraph 6.6, has been set up to allow Licensing Act 2003 fees to be incorporated and calculated as and when the Council is in a position to do so both from a policy and a legislative perspective.
- 3.4 The government has previously consulted on its intention to move from centrally set to locally set licence fees under the Licensing Act 2003 but has yet to take this forward. As a result, the nationally determined statutory fees are retained and the Licensing Act 2003 fees are included in **Appendix A**. There are no discretionary Licensing Act 2003 fees proposed other than for providing a copy of information contained in an entry in the public register; this is reflected in **Appendix G**.
- 3.5 The costs associated with the licensing procedures that the Council may legally recover in fees consists of administrative costs, the costs of investigating the background and suitability of applicants for licences and the costs of monitoring the compliance of those with licences with their terms. Where applicable the cost of enforcement against unlicensed operators is also included in the fee. These will certainly include the costs that are directly attributable to licensing procedures and a proportion of indirect costs. The Council must be in a position to demonstrate that the costs included in any fees calculations are reasonable and proportionate to the cost of the licensing procedures.
- 3.6 Fees cannot exceed the cost of the licensing procedures and cannot be used to finance the delivery of other Council services.
- 3.7 To aid the Council to properly recover relevant licensing costs all licensing procedures have been considered and reviewed in detail; this work continues to evolve through an iterative process to further develop, improve and refine the processes involved. Managers, licensing officers and finance officers have collaborated in this work. The licensing procedures are considered from receipt of application to the issue of the final licence, permit, notice or registration with both variable and fixed costs being considered. These costs include officer, management and member time, including running of relevant Committees and the Licensing Panel, to administer and monitor compliance of both those already licensed and those who are unlicensed but exclude time spent enforcing matters that relate to joint hackney and private hire drivers' licences. In addition, a proportion of all indirect costs that can reasonably be attributed to licensing procedures have been included; for example, office accommodation, ICT, travelling, advertising, postage & printing, subscriptions, telephone costs, training and all other relevant internal market recharges and supplies and services costs.
- 3.8 There is no statutory duty on the Council to consult when setting or revising licensing fees with the exception of those fees relating to hackney carriage, private hire vehicles and operators' licences under Section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. This duty is reflected in the recommendation set out at paragraph 2.3 above. Historically, the Council has also consulted on driver licence fees and consequently it is recommended that this practice continues. Consequently, to vary the fees from those currently set, the Council is required to follow specific procedures that allow for objections to be made and considered by the Committee.

- 3.9 With respect to the remaining discretionary fees, it is suggested that publishing the Council's intentions, prior to the fees coming into force, is sufficient and this reflects previous practice.
- 3.10 The process that has been undertaken to determine the fees for 2027/28 is an extension of the process that commenced in 2013. This process will continue annually with amendments being made to take account of changes in the law and Council procedures and costs.
- 3.11 The Committee's legal authority to agree the recommendations is based within a range of specific licensing legislation together with the delegated functions set out in the Council's Constitution. Extracts from the relevant legislation are provided in **Appendix K**. Due consideration has also been given to relevant European legislation.

4. Summary of Main Proposals

- 4.1. This report proposes revised fees for the period 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2028 for licences and licensing related activities where the authority has the discretion to determine the relevant fees and relates to:
- hackney carriage and private hire vehicles and drivers;
 - private hire operators;
 - public health (acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin colouring, cosmetic piercing, electrolysis);
 - animals (hiring out horses, providing day care for dogs, boarding for cats, home boarding, kennel boarding, breeding for dogs, selling animals as pets, keeping or training animals for exhibition, dangerous wild animals, zoos and primates);
 - scrap metal;
 - sex establishments;
 - street trading;
 - explosives and fireworks;
 - distribution of free printed matter;
 - relevant protected sites and
 - pleasure boats and vessels.
- 4.2. This report also proposes revised fees under the Gambling Act 2005 in relation to gambling activities where the authority has the discretion to determine fees up to legally set statutory maximums.
- 4.3. The statutory fees that must be charged for specific licences, permits and registrations under the Licensing Act 2003, the Gambling Act 2005 and explosives and fireworks legislation are also set out within the report.
- 4.4. Those licensed activities for which no fees may be set are also highlighted.
- 4.5. The total cost to the Council of delivering the licensing service in 2025/26 was calculated to be £948,393 and the income received was £818,102. There was an overall deficit of £130,291 with specific surpluses and deficits relating to each licence type calculated separately – see **Appendix L**. Steps have been, and

continue to be taken, to improve cost recovery across all appropriate licence types in order to reduce the overall deficit and to redistribute, return and recoup fees in relation to each licence type as appropriate.

- 4.6. The proposed fees are based on undertaking the administrative procedures and formalities associated with the relevant licencing procedures, including the costs of investigating the background and suitability of applicants for licences together with the cost of monitoring the compliance of those who are licensed against the conditions of their licences and enforcement for unlicensed activities where it is permitted. Where relevant, the fees have been split into two parts. The recovery of the deficits and the return of the surpluses as set out in **Appendix L** have been included in the fee calculations for 2027/28. As a result of this work, the proposed fees have been calculated and are set out in **Appendices D to I**.
- 4.7. Costs can be recovered over a period of time allowing surpluses to be returned to licensees and deficits to be recouped by the Council. This does not mean that fees have to be adjusted every year to reflect immediately previous deficits or surpluses. In any case, it must be demonstrable over a period of time that only legitimately incurred costs are recovered. Costs associated with enforcing unlicensed operators/businesses are recoverable by the Council but these costs are excluded from the calculation for the joint hackney and private hire drivers' licences in line with provisions in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. In addition, costs of providing advice to those who may consider applying for a licence in the future are included.
- 4.8. The surpluses and deficits for hackney carriage and private hire licence fees are set out in **Appendix L (Table 2)** and have been incorporated into the revised fees as set out **Appendix F**. Where a surplus has been generated in 2025/26 but a cumulative deficit position exists licence fees have not been reduced.
- 4.9. The fees under the Licensing Act 2003 are statutory fees that the Council cannot change. **Appendix L (Table 1)** shows a fee surplus of £99,030 was generated. This is largely due to the requirement for licensed premises to pay an annual fee to maintain their licence. The process of offsetting the overall licensing deficit using Licensing Act fees is permissible; however, this is only because the Licensing Act fees are statutory. Where the Council has the authority to set specific discretionary fees, these fees must be used only for the purposes of funding those specific licences.
- 4.10. Public health licences are issued indefinitely; hence, there is no opportunity to recoup deficits or return surpluses through a renewal process. Fee payments are entirely reliant on new applicants. The number of applicants is difficult to forecast. The administration and enforcement of the public health licences has, and continues to be, reviewed and efficiencies identified. However, the applications received still contributed to a £30,975 deficit across the public health licences in 2025/26. Where a surplus has been generated in 2025/26 but a cumulative deficit position exists licence fees have not been reduced.
- 4.11. On the 1 October 2018 the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 (the Regulations) came into effect. This provides for the licensing of providing day care for dogs, breeding for dogs, boarding for cats, kennel boarding, home boarding, selling animals as pets,

keeping or training animals for exhibition and hiring out horses. The new regulations do not include zoos and dangerous wild animals, the issuing of these licenses remain under the existing legislative requirements.

- 4.12. The work that has been undertaken to recover the deficits associated with animal licences to date has not been fully effective. The cumulative deficit increased by £53,450 in 2025/26. This is principally due to the changes introduced by the Regulations. The regulations required an increase in staffing resource to carry out inspections, particularly to address the increasing risk to animal welfare because of importation and over-breeding. Furthermore, the regulations allowed for licences to be issued to those businesses who met the higher standards for an extended period of up to three years, (previous legislation only allowed for a one-year licence to be issued). This resulted in a reduction in fees being received on an annual basis. The administration and enforcement of the animal health licences has, and continues to be, reviewed and efficiencies identified.
- 4.13. All licences subject to the Regulations are given a star rating (with the exception of Keeping or Training Animals for Exhibition Licences, which replaced Performing Animals Certificates and are subject to an automatic three year licence which is not star rated). The purpose of the star rating system is to ensure consistency in the implementation and operation of the licensing system, and to ensure that consumers can clearly see the star rating a business has received and therefore the risk level and standards of animal welfare they have. The star rating is determined by a scoring matrix set out in the Regulations. In order to calculate the star rating the results of an inspection of a premises and an assessment of the level of risk a business poses are combined to produce a rating between one and five stars. The higher the star rating is the better the standard of the business. The star rating also determines the length of time a licence lasts. One and two star licences last for one year, three and four star licences last for two years and five star licences last for three years.
- 4.14. The introduction of the star rating and different length licences makes it challenging to forecast annual income in relation to animal licences, this is due to the fact that under the new regime the number of licences issued in one financial year does not reflect the number that will be due for renewal in the following financial year. There are also a number of other variables which may affect when, or if, a licence is renewed, including:
- Surrender or non-renewal of a licence – there has been an increase in this since the new Regulations came into force as they are more difficult to comply with and some business have chosen not to continue operating.
 - A licence not being granted, or an application being withdrawn after the initial application and inspection phase (and therefore not paying the second part of the fee) because the business is not able to comply with the Regulations – instances of this have also increased due to some businesses finding it hard to comply with the new Regulations.
 - A business requesting a re-rating inspection mid-licence because they have carried out work identified as needed at the initial inspection and are now able to reach a higher standard. The star rating and therefore the length of the licence would increase as a result, changing the original renewal date.

- A businesses star rating being downgraded following an unannounced inspection (either the mandatory unannounced inspection carried out during the course of the licence as required by the Regulations or as the result of a complaint), resulting in the licence lasting for a shorter period of time than originally issued, changing the original renewal date.
 - A business deciding not to continue with one activity where they carry out more than one or deciding to add a new activity. For example, a business which was a kennel and a cattery deciding not to offer cat boarding but continuing with kennel boarding when they come to renew their licence, reducing the renewal fee due.
- 4.15. Under the previous regimes the majority of licences lasted for one year, there were no star ratings and the regimes were less rigorous, so there were relatively fewer variables which could impact on the likelihood of when and if a licence was renewed. It was therefore possible to forecast expected income from animal licences in year more accurately.
- 4.16. A list of the fees under the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 are set out at **Appendix H**.
- 4.17. It is important to note that the timing of the rolling fee recovery period means that the deficit reported in the current financial year does not represent a permanent pressure on the service budget. The shortfall is expected to be recovered through income received in 2027/28, when the majority of the three to five star ratings fall due. The overall financial impact should therefore be assessed across the full rolling period, with fee income and recoverable costs monitored to ensure that the position remains balanced over time and that only legitimately incurred costs are recovered.
- 4.18. The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 came into force on 6 April 2025. The regulations required anyone who keeps a primate to be licenced to do so from 6 April 2026. The Regulations allows for Local Authorities to set an application fee including fees for renewal, variation or surrender and for any inspection which it must or may arrange. The proposed fees have been set out in **Appendix G** and include the costs associated with the licensing requirements in line with the Regulations.
- 4.19. Explosives and fireworks licence and registration fees are all statutory fees (with the exception of those discretionary fees listed in **Appendix D**), which cannot be changed by the Council. **Appendix L (Table 1)** shows a deficit of £11,811, which will only be able to be reduced through making efficiency improvements across the administration and enforcement processes. The service is continuing to review how these efficiencies can be achieved. It should be noted that the activities to which the discretionary fees relate are little used in practice and were not used at all during 2025/26; hence there being no opportunity to generate additional discretionary income in order to recover the deficit incurred.
- 4.20. The work undertaken to recover the deficits associated with scrap metal licences has started to become effective. There is a cumulative surplus of £932 in 2025/26.

The staffing resource required to carry out inspections to address the recognised criminal risks associated with scrap metal dealing is continually reviewed. The administration and enforcement of scrap metal licences has and continues to be reviewed and efficiencies identified. The fees associated with scrap metal licences are set out in **Appendix G**.

- 4.21. The licences that are grouped as miscellaneous include those for non-residential caravan sites, sex establishments, free printed matter, street collections, house to house collections, street trading and pleasure boats and vessels as listed in **Appendix G**. Work that has been undertaken to recover the deficit associated with these licences has not been fully effective with the cumulative deficit increasing with a further £20,469 in 2025/26. A proportion of these costs are not recoverable and will always be borne by the local taxpayer as there are certain licences where the Council is unable to charge fees, e.g. licensing house to house collections, street collections and non-residential caravan sites. The administration and enforcement of these licences has and continues to be reviewed and efficiencies identified.
- 4.22. The caravan sites and control of development act 1960 as amended by the Mobile Homes Act 2013 (the Act) allows for the Council to fix fees for a new application for a Relevant Protected Site, fix a fee for the alteration of the site licence (whether by the variation or cancellation of existing conditions, or by the addition of new conditions, or by a combination of any such methods), fix a fee for the transfer of a site licence, fix annual fees and prepare and publish a fees policy. The fees associated with Relevant Protected Sites are set out at **Appendix I**. The Relevant Protected Site Fees Policy information is set out at **Appendix J**.
- 4.23. The Mobile Homes (Requirement for Manager of Site to be Fit and Proper Person) (England) Regulations 2020 allows for the Council to fix a fee for an application for inclusion in the register of fit and proper persons and prepare and publish a fees policy.
- 4.24. The Mobile homes (site rules) (England) Regulations 2014 allows the Council to determine a fee for the owner of a Relevant Protected Site to deposit site rules or a deletion notice with the local authority.
- 4.25. A Relevant Protected Site under the Act is a residential caravan site; it does not include any site licence which is granted for holiday use only or a site which is subject to conditions that include periods of time when no caravan may be stationed on land for human habitation.
- 4.26. The Act came into effect from 1 July 2021, fees were set along with a fees policy from 1 April 2022. All existing licence holders were required to apply under the Act prior to the fees coming into effect. Each licence is renewed every five years. There is a cumulative surplus of £43 in the year 2025/26. The administration and enforcement of these licences have and continues to be reviewed and efficiencies identified. The fees have been set considering the details contained in the fees policy. The fees policy will continue to be reviewed and published each year.
- 4.27. The Gambling Act 2005 provides for licences, permits, notices and registrations. The Council has the discretion to set the fees for licences and notices up to certain

statutory maximums. The fees for permits and registrations are statutory and the Council has no authority to change these.

- 4.28. The majority of the Gambling Act work undertaken relates to the administration and enforcement of permits and registrations, which are the subject of statutory fees. There is a clear indication that these statutory fees are insufficient to cover the cost of the work associated with the administration and enforcement of the permits, e.g. basic administrative costs are at least 20% more than the statutory fee payable and there are a considerable number where the overall costs are significantly more. Processes continue to be reviewed and refined to ensure efficiencies wherever practicable.
- 4.29. The Council has the authority to set the licence fees under the Gambling Act (up to certain statutory maximums). The proposed fees, which directly reflect the calculations to recover the costs incurred, or the statutory maximum depending on which of the two is lower, are set out in **Appendix E**. As with explosives licences referred to above, the activities to which the discretionary fees relate are little used in practice; hence there being no opportunity to generate additional discretionary income in order to recover the deficit incurred.
- 4.30. An assumption has been made about the number of renewals that will take place in 2027/28 in order to recover or redistribute the deficits and surpluses. Until the end of the 2027/28 financial year it will not be known whether the assumptions about the number of renewals were accurate or not. The activity in 2026/27 will again change the cumulative position and further adjustments will be required in this rolling annual process. The adjustments to correct any material discrepancy in the recovery or redistribution of the deficits and surpluses will be made against 2028/29 fees and so on until the recovery of the surplus or deficit reaches a satisfactory position.
- 4.31. Where licences have a renewal period of greater than one year, the recovery or redistribution calculation is spread across the same period.
- 4.32. The setting of licensing fees and charges for the 2027/28 includes:

The 3.5% pay award for local government staff effective from 1 April 2026.
- 4.33. The fee calculations take into account regional variations to ensure Shropshire Council is the licensing body of choice and as a result no blanket inflationary costs are being applied to fees. This process also takes account of fluctuating numbers of applications each year and the need to cost over the three-year statutory period.
- 4.34. Where legislation allows the Council to recover licensing costs, it is important that this is undertaken effectively. Losses that are not funded by other means, including being subsidised by council tax payers, may result in a reduction in the Council's ability to effectively deliver the overall licensing regime in the Shropshire Council area. However, it is recognised that not all licensing costs are recoverable.

5. Alternative Options

- 5.1. The alternative options available to the Council are to retain the existing discretionary licensing fees and charges, apply a reduced or partial increase, or defer any revised fees to a later financial year. These options are not recommended, as they would limit the Council's ability to recover the reasonable and proportionate costs incurred in administering, regulating and enforcing the relevant licensing regimes, where legislation permits such recovery. Any unrecovered costs would either need to be met from wider Council resources, including local taxpayer funding, or absorbed within the service, which will place further pressure on the effective delivery of the licensing function. Failure to set fees at an appropriate level may also weaken the Council's ability to demonstrate robust financial management, maintain effective regulatory oversight and ensure that, so far as is lawful and proportionate, the costs of licensing activity are borne by those who require or benefit from the licensing service rather than by the wider community.

6. Key risks and Opportunities

- 6.1. The Council makes every effort to recover regulatory and enforcement costs from those who are licensed. However, it is acknowledged that the Council's licensing fees and charges may be challenged through a number of routes, including service complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman and judicial review; hence, the importance of undertaking robust processes to set discretionary fees and charges.
- 6.2. The Council is permitted to include costs for clerical and administrative aspects when determining licence fees, but these must be reasonable and proportionate to the actual costs of the procedures. The costs of regulatory and enforcement activities, including enforcement to address unlicensed activity, can also be included. Only successful applicants can be required to make a contribution towards the regulatory and enforcement costs.
- 6.3. Where the Council intends to recover regulatory and enforcement costs, it cannot include these costs in the fee that is payable at the time any application is submitted. Such costs are only payable after the decision has been taken to grant or renew a licence. This means that for those licences that incur post application regulatory and enforcement costs, the fees are charged in two parts:
- a) the first part is payable at the time an application is submitted and aims to recover the costs associated with the administrative procedures and formalities of the application process (this includes the costs of undertaking all the required checks relevant to each licence type); and
 - b) the second part is payable by the applicant only once the licence is granted or renewed and aims to recover the costs associated with the ongoing regulation and enforcement of the licensing regimes.

- 6.4. There are a number of licences that do not incur post application regulatory and enforcement costs. This is because the work undertaken as part of the application process is deemed to be proportionate to the level of risk associated with the activity that is controlled by these particular licence types. For these licences, there is only one fee payable and this is at the point of application.
- 6.5. The two-part fee is not applicable to hackney carriage, private hire and gambling related licences; consequently, for these licence types a single fee is payable at the point of application. The same is applicable to all statutory fees.
- 6.6. To reduce the risk of challenge to the Council, a financial modelling tool was introduced in 2013 to calculate licensing fees from 2014/15 onwards. This continues to be updated, modified and refined to take account of amendments to the law, changes made by licensing officers, recommendations from the Council's finance officers and to reflect ongoing changes to the way in which the licensing function is resourced.
- 6.7. Overall, the tool draws together detailed information regarding the costs associated with undertaking the administrative procedures and formalities associated with all licensing procedures, including the costs of investigating the background and suitability of applicants for licences together with the cost of monitoring the compliance of those who are licensed against the conditions of their licences. It also aims to demonstrate that the cost of enforcing the licensing regime against unlicensed operators has been considered and is included in licence fees. Enforcement costs are not included for joint hackney and private hire drivers' licences in line with specific provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. Fees are compared on an ongoing rolling basis.

Risk	Mitigation	Link to Strategic Risk
Challenge to the lawfulness, reasonableness or proportionality of discretionary licensing fees and charges through complaint, Ombudsman referral or judicial review.	Maintain robust, evidence-based fee-setting processes, supported by the financial modelling tool, clear cost records and ongoing review of relevant legislation, officer input and finance advice.	Legal, governance and reputational risk.
Risk that fees recover costs that are not legally recoverable, are charged at the wrong point in the process, or exceed the actual cost of licensing procedures.	Apply the two-part fee structure where required, exclude non-recoverable enforcement costs where legislation requires, and ensure successful applicants only contribute to relevant regulatory and enforcement costs after grant or renewal.	Financial sustainability, legal compliance and governance risk.

Risk that licensing fee income does not accurately reflect the cost of administering, regulating and enforcing relevant licensing regimes over time.	Continue to update, modify and refine the financial modelling tool to reflect amendments to law, service processes, finance recommendations, officer time and changes to the way the licensing function is resourced.	Financial resilience, value for money and service-delivery risk.
Risk of reduced transparency or insufficient audit trail if fee calculations and assumptions are not clearly evidenced.	Draw together detailed information on administrative, suitability, monitoring and enforcement costs, retain clear supporting records and compare fees on an ongoing rolling basis.	Governance, assurance and reputational risk.
Risk of inconsistent treatment between licence types where different statutory requirements apply, including single-fee regimes and statutory fees.	Apply the correct fee route for each licence type, including single-fee arrangements for hackney carriage, private hire, gambling-related licences and statutory fees, with officer and finance review.	Legal compliance, governance and operational risk.
Opportunity to strengthen cost recovery, protect public funds and support a sustainable licensing service that is fair to applicants, licence holders and the wider Council.	Use annual and rolling fee reviews to ensure recoverable costs are properly reflected, deficits and surpluses are addressed over time, and charges remain proportionate and transparent.	Financial sustainability and best value.
Opportunity to improve confidence in the Council's licensing arrangements by demonstrating that fees are based on current evidence, lawful principles and proportionate regulation.	Continue collaborative review by licensing managers, licensing officers and finance officers, ensuring the model reflects operational practice and supports clear explanation to Members and stakeholders.	Reputational confidence, governance and effective regulation.

7. Council Priorities

- 7.1. The setting of licensing fees and charges on a cost-recovery basis directly supports the Council's Corporate Plan by helping to ensure that statutory and regulatory licensing functions are delivered in a financially sustainable, transparent and accountable way. The Corporate Plan identifies the need for the Council to become financially sustainable, with clear priorities and purpose, and to align

service activity and spending with the resources available. Recovering the lawful and reasonable costs of administering, regulating and monitoring licensing activity helps ensure that the cost of delivering the licensing service is met, as far as legislation permits, by those who benefit from or require the licensing process rather than being subsidised unnecessarily by council taxpayers.

- 7.2. This approach contributes to the Corporate Plan ambition of a sustainable council by supporting robust budget management, improving financial resilience and reducing pressure on wider Council resources. Where legislation allows costs to be recovered, effective fee setting ensures that the Licensing Service has the capacity to meet its statutory responsibilities, process applications, undertake appropriate checks, monitor compliance and maintain proportionate regulatory oversight. This is particularly important in the context of the Council's wider financial position, where services must demonstrate value for money, efficient use of resources and a clear link between operational activity and corporate priorities.
- 7.3. Cost recovery also supports good governance and transparent decision-making. Licensing fees must be based on evidence of the actual costs of the relevant licensing procedures and must be reasonable, proportionate and legally defensible. By using a structured financial modelling process, reviewing income and expenditure, and reporting proposed fees through the appropriate committee and Council governance routes, the Council can demonstrate that fees are not being used to generate profit or fund unrelated services, but are instead set to recover legitimate costs connected to the licensing regimes.
- 7.4. In addition, effective cost recovery helps protect service delivery and supports safe, inclusive and well-regulated communities. Licensing provides important safeguards for residents, businesses and visitors by ensuring that applicants are properly assessed, licence holders are monitored, and regulatory standards are maintained. Ensuring that these activities are properly funded allows the Council to continue delivering a proportionate, risk-based licensing service that supports public protection, confidence in local regulation and fair treatment of compliant businesses.
- 7.5. Overall, the review and setting of licensing fees and charges provides a practical example of the "golden thread" between the Corporate Plan, service planning, financial planning and operational delivery. It demonstrates how the Licensing Service contributes to a financially sustainable Council by recovering appropriate costs, maintaining lawful and transparent charging arrangements, supporting efficient service delivery and ensuring that resources are targeted to statutory duties and agreed priorities.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. The fees recommended in this report are subject to the 2027/28 fees policy, which will be presented to the Full Council in February 2027 for approval.

9. Legal and HR implications

- 9.1 Licensing decisions are taken in accordance with the Council's Constitution, relevant legislation, adopted licensing policies and approved procedures. There are no direct workforce implications arising from the recommendation.

10. Electoral Division Implications

- 10.1. This report has countywide application and does not give rise to implications limited to a particular electoral division.

11. Health, Social (including "Child Friendly Shropshire") and Economic Implications

- 11.1. As this report relates specifically to the setting and review of Licensing Fees and Charges, its purpose is financial and administrative in nature. The recommendations are concerned with ensuring that the Council's licensing functions recover appropriate costs in accordance with relevant legislative and financial requirements. As such, the Council's Health in All Policies approach is not directly applicable to this report, as the proposals do not introduce or amend service delivery arrangements, policy interventions, or operational activities that would have a direct impact on health, wellbeing, inequalities, or the wider determinants of health.

12. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 12.1. An Equality and Social Inclusion Impact Assessment has not been undertaken as the report does not concern the implementation of a new policy; the focus of the report is the review of licensing costs to ensure the Council is in a position to recoup its costs on a cost recovery basis in line with current legislative requirements.
- 12.2. The recommendations are not at variance with the Human Rights Act 1998 and are unlikely to result in any adverse Human Rights Act implications. The recommendations are in line with current legal procedures laid down in domestic licensing legislation and takes into consideration relevant European provisions and case law.

13. Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environmental Implications

- 13.1. There are no anticipated climate change or environmental impacts associated with the recommendations in this report.

14. Background Papers

1. Services Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market

2. Provision of Services Regulations 2009 - SI 2009 No 2999
3. Supreme Court Judgement in the case of R (on the application of Hemming and others v Westminster City Council – 29 April 2015 - [2015] UKSC 25 on appeal from [2013] EWCA Civ 591
4. Court of Justice for the European Union Judgement in the case of Hemming [2016] EUECJ C-316/15 (16 November 2016)
5. Mobile Homes Act 2013
6. The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018
7. The Mobile Homes (Requirement for Manager of Site to be Fit and Proper Person) (England) Regulations 2020
8. The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024

15. Appendices

Appendix A Licensing Act 2003 Statutory Fees

Appendix B Gambling Act 2005 Statutory Fees

Appendix C Explosives and Fireworks Legislation Statutory Fees

Appendix D Explosives and Fireworks Legislation Discretionary Fees

Appendix E Gambling Act 2005 Discretionary with Statutory Maximum Fees

Appendix F Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Discretionary Fees

Appendix G Other Legislation Discretionary Fees

Appendix H New Animal Legislation Discretionary Fees

Appendix I Relevant Protected Site Fees

Appendix J Relevant Protected Site Fees Policy Information

Appendix K Extracts from relevant licensing legislation providing legal framework within which local authorities may charge licensing fees

Appendix L Licensing costs, income and surplus/deficit