

Committee: LICENSING & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Agenda Item

Date: 16 October 2013

Title: LICENSING RESERVE

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Item for decision

Summary

1. This report is a follow up to my report to this committee on the 10 July 2013.

Recommendations

2. That members note this report.

Financial Implications

3. None.

Background Papers

4. None.

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	None
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	The council is entitled to recover the cost of running the licensing service but ought not to make a profit. It is therefore necessary to ensure that costs and income balance out over a period of time.
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

6. The year-end accounts for 2012/13 have now been finalised. As at the year-end the balance standing to the credit of the reserve amounted to £62000.00. In round figures this is £5,000 more than was forecasted and £1000 less than anticipated in my report in July.
7. A breakdown of the figures was provided to ULODA on 21 August 2013. This was later than was anticipated due to accountants being engaged in the first audit by new external auditor. ULODA were invited at that time to agree to a meeting with the Assistant Chief Executive – Finance, the service accountant and myself to discuss the figures. At the time I was informed that 2 parties who wished to be involved in that meeting were busy with business matters and I would be contacted when their availability could be established. Nothing has been heard since.
8. The reserve has now reduced to a level where an increase in fees will be necessary on 2014/15 to ensure that the council breaks even going forward. Mr Joyce and I will engage with the trade during the budget process in determining what the level of fees should be for 2014/15. There will need to be an extra-ordinary meeting of this committee to determine the fees for which it is responsible and to advise the Cabinet on the suggested level of other fees as there is no other scheduled meeting of the Committee before the budget is set. This meeting will need to take place in November or December 2013.

Risk Analysis

9. There are no risks associated with this report.