

Request for Reduction of Fees – Public Entertainment Licence – Beltane Fire Festival

Licensing Sub-Committee

20th May 2011

Purpose of report

- 1 To advise the committee of a request from the organisers of the Beltane Fire Festival for a reduction in the fee charged for a Public Entertainment licence for the 2011 Fire Festival.

Main report

- 2 Appendix 1 to this report consists of a detailed letter from the Beltane Fire Society, requesting a reduction in the application fee for a Public Entertainment licence.
- 3 The application for the temporary Public Entertainment licence for the festival was submitted by the Beltane Fire Society on 6th April 2011. The festival took place on 30th April 2011. Due to committee timetabling arrangements, it was not possible to bring this request for a fee reduction before the committee prior to the Beltane Fire Festival taking place.
- 4 The application for Public Entertainment licence was processed in the meantime and was ultimately granted.
- 5 The appended letter provides details of the basis upon which the fee reduction request has been made. The organisers of the event previously reached an agreement with the Council whereby the fees for the Public Entertainment licences for the events held in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 would be £1,000 for each year. The event attracts in excess of around 10,000 persons and in terms of the Council's licensing fees structure, the standard fee applicable would be £8,488.
- 6 As referred to in the appended letter from the event organisers, the fees structure also provides for Public Entertainment licences for charitable or community-based events, although with reference to a capacity of less than 200 persons.
- 7 A representative from the Beltane Fire Festival will be invited to address the committee on the terms of the request for a reduced licence application fee.

Financial Implications

- 8 The Council's scale of fees for licensing applications was approved with effect from 1st April 2010. The fees for the financial year 2011/12 are unchanged. If the committee was to decide upon a reduction or waiver of fees, any resultant shortfall in anticipated fees would require to be absorbed by the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 licensing budget for 2011/12.

Environmental Impact

- 9 There is no environmental impact arising from the contents of this report.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to consider, in light of the Council's current budgetary situation, whether or not to agree to a reduction or waiver of the application fee in respect of the application for Public Entertainment Licence, in terms of the request submitted by the Beltane Fire Festival organisers.

David Jack
Acting Director of Corporate Services

Appendices	1. letter from The Beltane Fire Festival received 5 th April 2011
Contact/tel/Email	Nick Fraser, Senior Solicitor (Licensing) / 0131 529-4424 / nicholas.fraser@edinburgh.gov.uk
Wards affected	citywide
Single Outcome Agreement	<p>Supports National Outcome 1 – “We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe”</p> <p>Supports Local Outcome – “Edinburgh Festivals have a global competitive edge”</p> <p>Supports National Outcome 11 – “We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others”</p> <p>Supports Local Outcome – “Edinburgh has strong, engaged and supported voluntary and community sectors that enable people to participate in their communities”</p> <p>Supports National Outcome 13 – “We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity”</p> <p>Supports Local Outcome – “All residents including those from minority backgrounds are able to actively participate in the community”</p>
Background Papers	City of Edinburgh Council licence application fees list