

# Licensing Sub-Committee of the Regulatory Committee

10.00am, Friday, 7 October 2016

## Request for Fee Refund – Market Operator’s Licence – Edinburgh Vegan Festival

Item number	4.1
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	

### Executive Summary

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The Council has received a request on behalf of Edinburgh Vegan Festival to agree to a refund of the application fee paid for a Market Operator’s Licence for the event which took place on 20-21 August 2016.

### Links

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Coalition Pledges	P15, P28 and P31
Council Priorities	CP6
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1 and SO3

## Request for Fee Refund – Market Operator’s Licence – Edinburgh Vegan Festival

### 1. Recommendations

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The Committee is asked to:

- 1.1 note the terms of the request; and
- 1.2 refuse the refund request.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 The organiser of the Edinburgh Vegan Festival 2016, has requested that the application fee paid for the Market Operator’s Licence should be refunded. The event took place on 20-21 August 2016.
- 2.2 The Council agreed to amend the fees charged for licence applications with effect from 1 April 2016.

### 3. Main report

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- 3.1 The organiser of Edinburgh Vegan Festival 2016 has submitted a written request seeking a refund of the fee paid for a Market Operator’s Licence for the 2016 event. A copy of the application form is attached at Appendix 1, and a copy of the relevant correspondence is attached to this report at Appendix 2.
- 3.2 The fee structure for 2016/2017 was agreed by the Council in February 2016. Members will recall that previous reports highlighted that not all licence fee costs were being recovered, and agreed the recommended changes to the fee structure.
- 3.3 The fee paid for a Market Operator’s licence was £1000. This is the applicable fee for a licence for temporary indoor markets in Ward 11 which operate less than once per calendar month.
- 3.4 A fee refund is sought by the organiser of the event. A letter is attached (Appendix 2) explaining the reasons for the request.
- 3.5 The Committee will want to note that this event was permitted a reduced fee regarding the 2015 event, and the organiser was advised at that time that any future events should budget for the full fee (Appendix 3).

- 3.6 The Council incurs significant costs in dealing with issues arising from licensed events in the city centre area. These costs are required to be directly recovered from licence fees.
- 3.7 A representative of the Edinburgh Vegan Festival will be invited to address the Committee on the request for the fee refund.

#### **4. Measures of success**

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- 4.1 The event is licensed in a proportionate and effective manner.

#### **5. Financial impact**

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- 5.1 The Council's scale of fees for licensing applications was approved with effect from 1 April 2016. Any refund would be required to be absorbed by the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 licensing budget for 2016/17 or alternatively using wider Council budgets.
- 5.2 In 2016/2017, discounts of £42,262 have so far been granted by the Committee.

#### **6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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- 6.1 The fee structure was agreed by the Council in January 2016. Any refund risks setting a precedent, however the Committee has discretion in this matter.

#### **7. Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 There is no equalities impact arising from the contents of this report.

#### **8. Sustainability impact**

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

#### **9. Consultation and engagement**

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- 9.1 Representatives of the event have been in dialogue with Council officers.

#### **10. Background reading/external references**

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- 10.1 None

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## 11. Links

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<b>Coalition pledges</b>	<b>P15</b> Work with public organisations, the private sector and social enterprises to promote Edinburgh to investors.
<b>Council priorities</b>	<b>CP6</b> A creative, cultural capital
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	<b>SO1</b> Edinburgh's Economy delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all.
<b>Appendices</b>	<a href="#">Appendix 1</a> : Application form Appendix 2: Letter from Louise Pinchen received on 16 September 2016 Appendix 3: Letter from Licensing Service dated 18 August 2015