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| <b>Report on</b>         | Determination of Fees for Entertainments Licences from 2023/24 |
| <b>Date of Meeting</b>   | 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2022                                  |
| <b>Reporting Officer</b> | Terry Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services        |
| <b>Contact Officer</b>   | Terry Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services        |

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| <b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>         | Yes |   |
| If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon | No  | X |

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report</b>  |
| 1.1        | To inform Members of the Determination of Fees for Entertainments Licences from 2023/24 following fees easement introduced as a result of Covid 19.   |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Background</b>   |
| 2.1        | The Council is empowered to process and issue Entertainment Licences in accordance with the "Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 – Schedule 1".   |
| 2.2        | Entertainment Licences are renewed on an annual basis for all relevant venues with the renewal date for licences varying throughout the year across the District.   |
| 2.3        | Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic many venues over the 21/22 financial year were unable to open or in certain cases have limited activity in line with Government Guidance. This resulted in financial loss to the licensees, which has been highlighted to the Council as well as the Department for Communities. In early 2022 easing of lockdown restrictions meant licensed premises were permitted to now open as normal. |
| 2.4        | The fees are not set at the discretion of the Council but are issued by the Department for Communities. Members will be aware that a nominal fee of £1 for the renewal of applications only. This change came into effect from 6 April 2021 and has remained in place for the duration of the 2021/22 financial year. It was subsequently extended for the 22/23 financial year.  |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>  |
| 3.1        | With the introduction of a nominal £1 fee for the renewal of a Full or Occasional Licence, depending on the size and type of licence, this resulted in a saving to the applicant of anything in the range from £49 for a small venue (holding not more than 100 persons) for an occasional licence to £999 for large venues (holding over 1000 persons) for a full licence.   |

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| 3.2        | Correspondence has been received from the “Department for Communities” (see Appendix 1) advising that the easement will not continue beyond the end of 2022/23 financial year. Will effect from 06 April 2023 fees for renewal entertainment licenses will revert to pre-April 2021 levels.   |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Other Considerations</b>   |
| <b>4.1</b> | <p data-bbox="240 517 991 555"><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p data-bbox="240 595 1377 741">Financial: The Department for Communities provided cover to Council for any loss of income resulting from the reduction in fees for the renewal of entertainment licences for the easement period in 2021/22 and 2022/23. Rates payable by applicants effective from 06 April 2023 are included in the appendix.</p> <p data-bbox="240 781 743 819">Human: Within Current Resources</p> <p data-bbox="240 891 608 929">Risk Management: None</p> |
| <b>4.2</b> | <p data-bbox="240 1039 762 1077"><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p data-bbox="240 1117 903 1155">Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: None</p> <p data-bbox="240 1227 707 1265">Rural Needs Implications: None</p>  |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Recommendation(s)</b>  |
| 5.1        | It is recommended that Members note the content of this report in respect of Determination of Fees for Entertainments Licences effective from 06 April 2023.  |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>  |
| 6.1        | Appendix 1 – Fees for Entertainment Licenses Determination - Circular to Councils 15 November 2023  |