



Subject:	Review of Street Trading Licensing Fees - result of consultation exercise
Date:	18 March 2026
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning & Building Control, Ext. 2300
Contact Officer:	Stephen Hipkins, Building Control Manager, Ext. 2435

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report																		
1.1	To report on the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise undertaken on the proposed fees for Street Trading Licences and for a decision as to whether the fees should be implemented as proposed.																		
1.2	Members will recall that, at your meeting of the 16 April 2025 regarding the review of Street Trading Licence Fees the Committee decided on the proposed fees from three options provided and agreed that consultation as set out in the Street Trading Act N.I. 2001 could be commenced.																		
2.0	Recommendations																		
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to consider the contents of the report and recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set the proposed fees for Street Trading Licences at the level consulted on, effective from the 6 April 2026. 2. Where the proposed fees are not agreed, Committee are requested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To set the fees for Street Trading Licences at an alternative level; or • To not change the existing fees; or • To request that further options for Street Trading Licence fees be developed and presented at a future meeting. 																		
3.0	Main Report																		
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Members are reminded that the Street Trading Act N.I. 2001 gives the Council powers that it may charge such fees as may be sufficient to cover any reasonable administrative or other costs in connection administering the Street Trading Licence Scheme.</p> <p>Below is a summary of the proposed fees the Committee agreed should be consulted on, following consideration of three fees options, at your meeting of 16 April 2025. (See Appendix 1 for minutes of your meeting and Appendix 2 for the fee options presented)</p> <table data-bbox="384 1514 1254 1951" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Stationary Licence</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Proposed fee</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Application Fee - <i>Nonrefundable</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£290</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Licence Fee (paid annually for 3 year duration of licence):</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Licensed for Monday to Friday</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,225</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Licensed for one day (Mon-Fri)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£395</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Licensed for Monday to Saturday</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,390</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Licensed for Monday to Sunday</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,640</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Licensed for Saturday</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,010</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Licensed for Sunday</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,080</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Stationary Licence	Proposed fee	Application Fee - <i>Nonrefundable</i>	£290	Licence Fee (paid annually for 3 year duration of licence):		Licensed for Monday to Friday	£1,225	Licensed for one day (Mon-Fri)	£395	Licensed for Monday to Saturday	£1,390	Licensed for Monday to Sunday	£1,640	Licensed for Saturday	£1,010	Licensed for Sunday	£1,080
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Mobile Licence

Application Fee - <i>Nonrefundable</i>	£310
Licence Fee (paid annually for 3 year duration of licence):	
Licensed for Monday to Friday	£955
Licensed for one day (Mon-Fri)	£395
Licensed for Monday to Saturday	£1,175
Licensed for Monday to Sunday	£1,450
Licensed for Saturday	£795
Licensed for Sunday	£875

Temporary Licence

Application Fee - <i>Nonrefundable</i>	£310
Licence Fee:	
Licensed for Monday to Friday, per day	£91
Licensed for Saturday	£132
Licensed for Sunday or Public holiday	£175

Variation of Licence Particulars £250

Consultation/Public Notice

- 3.3 Consultation on the proposed fees was for the statutory public notice 28 day period, as required by the Act. The public notice period closed on 18 February 2026.
- 3.4 Notice of the consultation was published in the two newspapers as required by the Act, specifically the Belfast Telegraph and the Irish News.
- 3.5 We also published the proposed fees on the Council's website to coincide with the newspaper public notice period, explaining how representations could be made and that a statement outlining how the proposed fees were prepared was available on request.
- 3.6 We also sent letters to individuals who are a current licensed street trader or have recently held or applied for a street trading licence, notifying them of the proposed fees and the closing date of the consultation period and seeking their views.

Responses

- 3.7 As a result of the consultation a total of five responses were received. A copy of the written responses received is attached as Appendix 3.
- 3.8 Four responses were received from mobile street trading licence holders (ice cream vans). This was four responses from a total 12 mobile street trading licences.
- 3.9 The other response received was from a stationary street trading licence holder, who holds licences in two locations. Therefore, this could be considered two out of 26 current stationary street trading licences.

3.10	<p><u>Summary of points raised in responses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand need for increase – but proposals not fair or appropriate • Would adversely affect the service provided to residents, which is of value to communities • Austerity and rising living costs already downtown as people make cutbacks on luxury/treat items like ice cream • Increased Operating Costs – Fuel, staffing, product. • Weather Dependency & Seasonal Trading especially for ice cream trade–restricted revenue opportunities • Increased Competition – concession units operating within parks and tourist locations • Increased costs of product together with applicable rates cannot be passed onto consumer • Would be a barrier to people joining the industry • Wouldn't be able to apply for temporary licence as if weather bad couldn't cover cost • Fees in other Council areas are significantly less
3.11	<p>As the comparison with fees in other council areas was made within responses, a list of these fees alongside the existing and proposed Belfast fees for comparison is given in Appendix 4.</p>
3.12	<p>If the Committee decides to set new fees the legislation requires that notice of the decision is published in two newspapers along with the implementation date and that all current street trading licence holders also be notified.</p>
4.0	<p>Financial and Resource Implications</p>
4.1	<p>There are significant financial and resource implication associated with this report.</p>
4.2	<p>The proposed Street Trading Licence fees will ensure the cost of the operational and administration processes are proportionate to the licensing scheme. Details outlining the costings associated with administering street trading licences are attached as Appendix 4.</p>
5.0	<p>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>There are no issues associated with this report.</p>
6.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 - Minutes of 16 April 2025 Licensing Committee • Appendix 2 - Overview of Street Trading Fee Options • Appendix 3 – Copy of written responses received. • Appendix 4 – Comparison with fees charged in other Council areas • Appendix 5 – Costs associated with administering street trading licences.