



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Review of Street Trading Licensing Fees - result of consultation exercise (deferred report with amended proposals)</b>
<b>Date:</b>	22 April 2026
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning & Building Control, Ext. 2300
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	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?**

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

**Call-in**

**Is the decision eligible for Call-in?** Yes  No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>																					
1.1  1.2  1.3  1.4	<p>At the Committee meeting of the 16 April 2025 it was agreed that consultation on revised street trading fees should be undertaken on the basis of a fee increase that was a calculated mid way increase between an inflationary increase and an increase to reflect cost recovery of processing street trading applications. Minutes of 16 April 2025 Licensing Committee meeting are included as Appendix 1.</p> <p>At your meeting of the 18 March 2026, the Committee considered representations on the proposed fees for street trading licences, which had been received in response to the consultation process as set out in the Street Trading Act N.I. 2001.</p> <p>At that meeting, Members agreed to defer a decision on the report and asked that offices bring forward revised proposals for an initial inflationary increase with staged further increases.</p> <p>This report once again details the consultation and representations received for further consideration and provides the requested amended fee proposals for Members to consider.</p>																					
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>																					
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to consider the contents of the report and recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agree to the initial inflationary uplift in year 1 as set out in paragraph 3.19 for Street Trading Licences, effective from the 1 June 2026, and</li> <li>2. Agree that in April 2027 and April 2028 an inflationary uplift will be added as well as a further 10% increase in fees.</li> </ol>																					
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>																					
3.1  3.2	<p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></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 current fees and the fees the Committee agreed should be consulted on, following consideration of three fee options, at your meeting of 16 April 2025.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="255 1612 1177 2002"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="255 1612 778 1729">STATIONARY LICENCE</th> <th data-bbox="785 1612 948 1729">Current fee</th> <th data-bbox="954 1612 1177 1729">fee consulted on</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="255 1738 778 1769">Application Fee - Non refundable</td> <td data-bbox="785 1738 948 1769">150</td> <td data-bbox="954 1738 1177 1769">£290</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="255 1818 778 1850">Licensed for Monday to Friday</td> <td data-bbox="785 1818 948 1850">800</td> <td data-bbox="954 1818 1177 1850">£1,225</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="255 1859 778 1890">Licensed for one day (Mon-Fri)</td> <td data-bbox="785 1859 948 1890">300</td> <td data-bbox="954 1859 1177 1890">£395</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="255 1899 778 1930">Licensed for Monday to Saturday</td> <td data-bbox="785 1899 948 1930">1000</td> <td data-bbox="954 1899 1177 1930">£1,390</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="255 1939 778 1971">Licensed for Monday to Sunday</td> <td data-bbox="785 1939 948 1971">1250</td> <td data-bbox="954 1939 1177 1971">£1,640</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="255 1980 778 2011">Licensed for Saturday</td> <td data-bbox="785 1980 948 2011">520</td> <td data-bbox="954 1980 1177 2011">£1,010</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	STATIONARY LICENCE	Current fee	fee consulted on	Application Fee - Non refundable	150	£290	Licensed for Monday to Friday	800	£1,225	Licensed for one day (Mon-Fri)	300	£395	Licensed for Monday to Saturday	1000	£1,390	Licensed for Monday to Sunday	1250	£1,640	Licensed for Saturday	520	£1,010
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Licensed for Sunday	580	£1,080
<b>MOBILE LICENCE</b>		
Application Fee - Non refundable	180	£310
Licensed for Monday to Friday	550	£955
Licensed for one day (Mon-Fri)	300	£395
Licensed for Monday to Saturday	800	£1,175
Licensed for Monday to Sunday	1100	£1,450
Licensed for Saturday	300	£795
Licensed for Sunday	380	£875
<b>TEMPORARY LICENCE</b>		
Application Fee - Non refundable	180	£310
Licensed for Monday to Friday, per day	40	£91
Licensed for Saturday	50	£132
Licensed for Sunday or Public holiday	70	£175
Variation of Licence Particulars	100	£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 2.
- 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 Summary of points raised in responses**

- Understand need for increase – but proposals not fair or appropriate

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would adversely affect the service provided to residents, which is of value to communities</li> <li>• Austerity and rising living costs already downtown as people make cutbacks on luxury/treat items like ice cream</li> <li>• Increased Operating Costs – Fuel, staffing, product.</li> <li>• Weather Dependency &amp; Seasonal Trading especially for ice cream trade–restricted revenue opportunities</li> <li>• Increased Competition – concession units operating within parks and tourist locations</li> <li>• Increased costs of product together with applicable rates cannot be passed onto consumer</li> <li>• Would be a barrier to people joining the industry</li> <li>• Wouldn't be able to apply for temporary licence as if weather bad couldn't cover cost</li> <li>• Fees in other Council areas are significantly less</li> </ul>
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 3.</p>
	<p><b><u>Revised proposals</u></b></p>
3.12	<p>At the meeting in March 2026, The Committee agreed to defer a decision on an uplift in fees for one month and requested that officers submit a report outlining a short-term inflationary rise of the current Street Trading fees, with proposed future staged increases, for the Committee to consider at its next meeting.</p>
3.13	<p>In order to calculate a short term inflationary rise as requested by the Committee, the Inflation figures were updated using the Bank of England inflation calculator, based on the latest available Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation data from Office for National Statistics.</p>
3.14	<p>The inflation figure from 2017 (when fees last set) to Feb 2026 has therefore been calculated at 35.4%</p>
3.15	<p>To calculate future staged increases and to start moving towards cost-recovery, annual ten percent increases over a further two year period were considered a reasonable approach. Therefore, it is proposed that in years two and three the CPI percentage increase is added to the proposed 10 percent annual increase.</p>
3.16	<p>The percentage CPI inflation figures for 12 months up to September 2025 was 3.8% and the latest available figure for percentage CPI inflation is for the 12 months up to February 2026 which is 3%. In the example fee calculations provided CPI for years 2 and 3 has been taken at 3%, whilst obviously this could be higher.</p>
3.17	<p>It would be the Building Control Service's intention to bring a further review of the street trading fees to Committee before the end of the third year, comparing the then current fees to a calculated cost recovery level for the work involved in street trading licensing applications and on-site monitoring, with the overall aim of moving closer towards cost-recovery.</p>
3.18	<p>It should also be noted that the application fee is paid on first grant and every 3 years on renewal, while the licence fee is paid annually. However, the annual licence fee is set at the time of the licence being issued. Therefore, for many street traders there will be a delay before they must pay an increased fee of either type.</p>
3.19	<p><b>Fee Uplift Proposal:</b></p>

	Current fee	fee consulted on	Year 1 = Inflation 2017-Feb 2026 = 35.4%	year 2 = + 10% + CPI (eg 3%)	year 3 = + 10% + CPI (eg 3%)
<b>STATIONARY LICENCE</b>					
Application Fee - Non refundable	150	£290	203.10	229.50	259.34
Licensed for Monday to Friday	800	£1,225	1083.20	1224.02	1383.14
Licensed for one day (Mon-Fri)	300	£395	406.20	459.01	518.68
Licensed for Monday to Saturday	1000	£1,390	1354.00	1530.02	1728.92
Licensed for Monday to Sunday	1250	£1,640	1692.50	1912.53	2161.15
Licensed for Saturday	520	£1,010	704.08	795.61	899.04
Licensed for Sunday	580	£1,080	785.32	887.41	1002.78
<b>MOBILE LICENCE</b>					
Application Fee - Non refundable	180	£310	243.72	275.40	311.21
Licensed for Monday to Friday	550	£955	744.70	841.51	950.91
Licensed for one day (Mon-Fri)	300	£395	406.20	459.01	518.68
Licensed for Monday to Saturday	800	£1,175	1083.20	1224.02	1383.14
Licensed for Monday to Sunday	1100	£1,450	1489.40	1683.02	1901.81
Licensed for Saturday	300	£795	406.20	459.01	518.68
Licensed for Sunday	380	£875	514.52	581.41	656.99
<b>TEMPORARY LICENCE</b>					
Application Fee - Non refundable	180	£310	243.72	275.40	311.21
Licensed for Monday to Friday, per day	40	£91	54.16	61.20	69.16
Licensed for Saturday	50	£132	67.70	76.50	86.45
Licensed for Sunday or Public holiday	70	£175	94.78	107.10	121.02
Variation of Licence Particulars	100	£250	135.40	153.00	172.89

3.20

The legislation does not require a new consultation exercise to be carried out if the Committee decides to set fees different to those that were previously consulted on. However, if the Committee decides to set fees set out in paragraph 3.19 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.

4.0

**Financial and Resource Implications**

4.1

There are significant financial and resource implications associated with this report.

4.2	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.
5.0	<p><b>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</b></p> <p>There are no issues associated with this report.</p>
6.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appendix 1 - Minutes of 16 April 2025 Licensing Committee</li> <li>• Appendix 2– Copy of written responses received (restricted)</li> <li>• Appendix 3– Comparison with fees charged in other Council areas</li> <li>• Appendix 4– Costs associated with administering street trading licences.</li> </ul>