

**DATE: 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2017**

<b>Executive Board Member:</b>	<b>Portfolio:</b>
<b>Cllr. Philip Hughes</b>	<b>Public Protection</b>

**SUBJECT:**

**RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS LICENSE CATEGORY AND ASSOCIATED FEES**

**Recommendations / key decisions required:**

1. To accept the attached report and approve the adoption of a new license category for riding establishments.
2. To consider the revised fee structure and decide on immediate implementation or to consider a period of consultation prior to implementation.

**Reasons:**

Carmarthenshire is home to a number of small riding establishments which suffer a detriment due to the small nature of their business and the disproportionate licensing fee structure.

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Report Author: Aled Thomas		

**Declaration of Personal Interest (if any):**

None

**Dispensation Granted to Make Decision (if any):**

N/A

**DECISION MADE:**

Signed:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

**The following section will be completed by the Democratic Services Officer in attendance at the meeting**

Recommendation of Officer adopted	YES / NO
Recommendation of the Officer was adopted <b>subject to the amendment(s) and reason(s) specified:</b>	
Reason(s) why the Officer's recommendation was <b>not adopted:</b>	

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DECISION MEETING FOR**  
**PUBLIC PROTECTION**  
**DATE: 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2017**

**RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS LICENSE CATEGORY AND ASSOCIATED FEES**

Carmarthenshire is experiencing an increase in small riding establishments (5 or less horses) due primarily to the increasing demand of the tourism industry. Currently establishments with 1 horse are licensed in the same manner and pay the same fee as an establishment operating 10 horses. Due to the financial burden of a disproportionate licensing fee structure smaller establishments are closing or finding trading challenging.

It is imperative that all applicable establishments are licensed and regulated by the appropriate legislation. Currently riding establishments operating 1 to 10 horses pay a licensing fee of £365, it is proposed that a new category is introduced for establishments operating 1 to 5 horses.

Having based the current fee structure on the Nationally recognised toolkit for fees. It is proposed that the new license category fee, be based on the price per head of the horses in the current fee structure (£36.50 per horse). It is therefore suggested that the new license category fee be set at £180, although this will require ratification from the Executive Board Member prior to implementation.

Consultation has not been completed. But advice and guidance sought from key stakeholders including The Animal and Plant Health Agency, local vets and the riding establishments all of whom would welcome the proposal.

It is our intention upon agreement to introduce this new license category and fee from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. The revised licensing category and fee structure are detailed within the attached proposed licensing category and fee document.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?**

**YES**

# IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Robin Staines

Head of Housing & Public Protection

Policy and Crime & Disorder	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Organisational Development	Physical Assets
<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

## 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

- It should be appreciated that the current licensing categories and fees place a disproportionate detrimental financial burden on smaller businesses within Carmarthenshire.
- By reducing a potential barrier to trade, it is envisaged that there will be an increase in the number of riding establishments.
- Due to this financial pressure, a small number of riding establishments operating with less than 5 horses, have been discovered operating without license.

## 3. Finance

- Currently only one riding establishment within Carmarthenshire would qualify for the new licensing category. This would result in a total loss of £176 to the authority.

## 5. Risk Management Issues

- The Riding Establishments Act 1964 place a statutory duty on the Authority to enforce this legislation. If we do not carry out this important function there is a potential of significant exploitation (and therefore of significant risk) to animals, reputable traders and consumers.
- As well as this, there is a risk of significant pressure from Welsh Government, members of the public and other interested parties. They perceive the potential practice of unlicensed and as such uninsured riding establishments as a high risk to the riding and tourism industry.

# CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Robin Staines

Head of Housing & Public Protection

## 1. Scrutiny Committee

N/A

## 2. Local Member(s)

N/A

## 3. Community / Town Council

N/A

## 4. Relevant Partners

N/A

## 5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information  
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

**THERE ARE NONE**

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection