

<b>Committee:</b> Police	<b>Date:</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2015
<b>Subject:</b> Fees and Charges 2015/16	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Commissioner of Police  POL 44 /14	<b>For Decision</b>

### **Summary**

This report seeks Member's approval to the schedule of Fees and Charges for the financial year 2015/16, in accordance with Financial Regulations. In addition, explicit approval is sought for the continuing use of the same hourly charge rates for Private Services provided by the City of London Police (CoLP) with that calculated by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), and the adoption of the schedule of rates determined by the MPS for the provision of market non-competitive activities.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members :

- Agree Appendix 1 (Special Services of Police Charges 2015/16) thereby giving explicit approval to the continuing use of the hourly charge rates for Private Services provided by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS).
- Agree Appendix 2 (General Fees and Charges) hereby implementing the schedule of rates for the provision of market non-competitive activities, and in particular agree to follow the MPS scale of charges for 2015/16.

## **MAIN REPORT**

### **BACKGROUND**

1. The Force has an obligation to review all Fees and Charges levied annually. This review is undertaken by adopting the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) tariff of fees and charges, as they are under an obligation to review their changes also. Following such a review by the MPS for 2015/16, the Force presents its revised tariffs below.
2. Since 2006, Members approved the selected use of MPS rates for similar services provided by the City of London Police. The rationale for adopting this policy is set out below, and still applies. The report therefore seeks approval for this arrangement to continue for 2015/16.

### **CURRENT POSITION**

3. Powers to recover costs for policing services from third parties are provided under Section 25 of the Police Act 1996.
4. Section 15 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides the legislative powers to charge for the supply of goods and services to a third party. These goods and services fall into two categories:
  - Market competitive goods and services – where charges are set in accordance with “what the market will bear”.
  - Market non-competitive activity – which is essentially a by-product of core policing activity.
5. In addition to Special Services of Police Charges for 2015/16, Appendix 1 also refers to the charges for the use of Custody by the UK Home Office Immigration Enforcement (H.O.I.E.) formerly UK Borders Agency (UKBA). On 1 April 2013, the UKBA ceased to exist, with responsibility split between two Home Office Commands. It is proposed that the Force continues to adopt the MPS rates which are based on the Home Office and ACPO (NPCC) national formula.

### **OPTIONS**

6. The Force currently adopts the MPS schedule of hourly rates for Private Service and market competitive goods and services. This approach was adopted because the City of London Police works in partnership and collaboration with the MPS on a number of operations including core policing services covered by mutual aid agreements and for private services, for example, policing football matches. In addition, both forces have similar cost drivers for many services.
7. The alternative is for the City of London Police to set its own fees and charges. However, the two forces have similar cost bases for salaries and London rates for accommodation, and the MPS rates are calculated to recover full costs. If the City of London Police were to raise its charges above those levied by the MPS it is likely that less total revenue would be generated, as potential clients

would probably choose to contract the MPS. The CoLP elects not to charge less than the MPS as we would fail to cover our full costs. Finally, the ACPO (NPCC) Guidance states “It should be remembered that there is a balance to be struck between precision and materiality, whilst striving to maintain a consistent approach to the charging methodology”.

## **PROPOSALS**

8. This report proposes that the City of London Police continues to adopt the MPS Fees and Charges for the 2015/16 financial year. This approach is consistent with the spirit of the ACPO (NPCC) Guidance on Charging for Police Services.
9. The proposed rates are set out in Appendix 1 for Special Services of Police; Appendix 2 contains the rates for market non-competitive activities.

## **CONCLUSION**

10. The Force seeks to achieve consistency with the MPS on its Fees and Charges so not to create unnecessary competition within the London area. The approach to adopt the MPS Fees and Charges supports this.

### **Background Papers:**

Fees and Charges 2015-16

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Special Services of Police – Charges 2015/16

Appendix 2: General Fees and Charges 2015/16

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