

Committee(s):	Date:
Policy & Resources Committee	24 September 2020
Subject: Proposed increase to Administration fees charged by the Film Liaison Team	Public
Report of: Bob Roberts, Director of Communications	For Decision
Report author: Joanna Burnaby-Atkins, Film Liaison Manager	

Summary

The City of London Corporation has a Film Liaison Team which acts as a liaison between productions and City Corporation departments to enable commercial filming to take place on the public streets in the City and on City Corporation sites. The Film Liaison Team charges administration fees for this service; however, these fees have not been updated since 2015. This report recommends updating and increasing these administration fees levied to production companies with the new charges to be implemented from 1st October 2020.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

1. Approve the proposed increases to administration charges levied by the Film Liaison Team as set out in paragraph 2.
2. Agree that, going forward, the Director of Communications be authorised to make future adjustments to these fees when appropriate, following assessment of comparable fees charged by other central London Borough Film Offices.

Main Report

Background

1. The City Corporation's Film Liaison Team was established in 1998 to act as a one stop shop for productions, liaising between them and City Corporation departments to facilitating filming on the public highway in the City and on many of the City Corporation's private properties. It has two full time members of staff.

Proposal

2. The Film Liaison Team's administration fees were last increased in 2015 and are now out of kilter with fees charged by central London Boroughs for the same service. Since 2015, administration fees have brought in an average amount of £118,700 per annum. It is proposed that these fees should now be increased as per the table below to bring them into line with the range of fees set by other central London boroughs. New proposed figures are highlighted in red on the following table:

* APPLICATION FEES - ONE OFF	Current Fees ALL FEES PLUS VAT	Proposed Fees from 1st October ALL FEES PLUS VAT
Charity, Students (at discretion)	£25	£30
Handheld camera – up to 5 people	No Fee	£75
Small crew - up to 10 people, camera and tripod only	£75	£150
Medium Crew: 11 – 20 people	£150	£200
Large crew: 20-50 people	£250	£275
Very large crew: 51 + people	£300	£350
ADMINISTRATION FEES		
Start being incurred once administration runs over one hour (the first hour is covered by the application fee) or turning around late applications.	£150 per hour	£150 per hour
One-off administration fees for commercial filming on non strategic route City Bridges (strategic routes are managed by Transport for London).	Application fee only for up to 30 mins £250 for up to 2 hours £450 for up to 4 hours	Application fee only for up to 30 mins £250 for up to 2 hours £450 for up to 4 hours £150 per additional one hour period
SITE MEETING		
Location Site Meetings	£150 per hour	£150 per hour
Guildhall booked room meetings	£200 per hour	£200 per hour

* by discretion, where appropriate an application fee may not be charged

Update on Filming Activity

3. Members may be interested in an update of filming activity. The following table charts the number of filming days in the City and the amount of income brought in by the Film Team over the last five years:

Financial Year	Income	Filming Days
2019-20	£568,092	641
2018-19	£645,479	884
2017-18	£627,055	950
2016-17	£548,115	906
2015-16	£354,915	1,004
2014-15	£401,283	1,170

4. In the financial year 2019-2020 income was down by 12% on the previous year. This was due to long term utility works in the City over this period.
5. Whilst the number of filming days has decreased over the last five years, income brought into the City Corporation by the Film Liaison Team has increased because of the trend towards bigger productions such as Cruella, Fast & Furious 9, War of the Worlds, The Crown and Killing Eve filmed in the City in 2019 and 2020.

Procurement of a Film Location Agency

6. Members may recall that, following the advice of a consultant, the procurement of a Film Location Agency was agreed by your Committee in 2019. The agency will be responsible for marketing and assisting with facilitating filming at 27 of the City Corporation's most popular locations to raise their profile as filming locations and increase income. Due to go out to tender in April 2020, this was delayed by COVID-19 but is now scheduled to for early 2021, with an agency to be in place in July 2021.

COVID-19

7. Members may also be interested in the impact of the pandemic on activity. Filming stopped abruptly with lockdown. With the publication on 1st June of the British Film Commission's 'Working Safely During COVID-19 in Film and High-end TV Drama Production' guidelines, together with similar guidelines from the television broadcaster and advertising industry bodies, it was possible to recommence small scale filming on exterior areas in the City and on Open Spaces. Larger scale productions are currently scouting interior and exterior locations from September onwards.

Filming during 2020/21

8. In addition to the restrictions caused by COVID-19, closures for long term utility works are still taking place in the City which will continue to affect the amount of large scale on street filming that can be facilitated on the network.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. By continuing to support filming on the public highway and the demands of the filming industry we support the City Corporation's Corporate Plan for 2018-23 in terms of its vision for a '*vibrant and thriving City, supporting a diverse and sustainable London within a globally successful UK*' and *contribute to a flourishing society and support a thriving economy*. Specifically relating to the following outcomes in the Plan:
 - People are safe and feel safe
 - We are a global hub for innovation in finance and professional services, commerce and culture
 - We inspire enterprise, excellence, creativity and collaboration

Conclusion

10. Members are recommended to approve the proposed increases of administration charges as recommended in the table in paragraph 2, with the new charges to be implemented from 1st October 2020.
11. It is recommended that going forward the Director of Communications is authorised to make future adjustments to these fees when appropriate, following assessment of comparable fees charged by other central London Borough Film Offices.

Appendices

12. None

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