

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21st October 2014

FEES AND CHARGES REVIEW 2015/16

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor John Fisher, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management
Portfolio Holder Consulted	
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering, Director of Finance and Corporate Resources
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	
Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

To present the proposed fees and charges for 2015/16 for the Council's chargeable services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to **RECOMMEND** that

- 1) **the fees and charges for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix 1- 9 to the report be approved; other than in cases where:-**
 - a) **Fees or charges are statutory,**
 - b) **Fees and charges are set externally, or**
 - c) **Other Council- approved circumstances apply.**

- 2) **the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services has delegation to alter the Leisure fees and charges by a variation of up to 30%.**

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Comments relating to the individual services are shown in the appendices where the fees and charges have reduced or remained the same.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the fees and charges be increase from 1st January 2015, where an invoice has not already been raised covering the last quarter of the financial year or if there is a contractual notice period preventing this.

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- 3.3 All fees and charges will then become effective from 1st January each financial year from 1st January 2016.

Financial Implications

- 3.4 The Council's Financial Regulation D11 requires an annual review of fees and charges to be undertaken. Traditionally, this review is carried out as part of the budget preparation cycle.
- 3.5 Officers have been asked to review all their Fees and Charges and it is recommended that they are increase by 3%. There is an increased income target of £97,000 for 2015/16 compared to 2014/15.

Building Control

- 3.6 An increasing number of customers are aware of the ability for local authorities to provide project specific quotations on request and the number of such requests is rising rapidly. It is proposed to continue with provision of site specific fees in accordance with The Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 2010 in those fee categories previously affected and to raise other specific declared fees by at least 3%.

Legal Implications

- 3.7 A number of statutes governing the provision of services covered by this report contain express powers or duties to charge for services. Where an express power to charge does not exist the Council has the power under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 to charge where the activity is incidental or conducive to or calculated to facilitate the Council's statutory function. The details of the powers to levy particular charges may be obtained from the author of this report.

Service/Operational Implications

- 3.8 The Committee is asked to recommend the new fees and charges to be implemented from 1st April 2015.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.9 No implications have been identified.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

If the Council's fees and charges are not increased at least in line with inflation each year then the level of subsidy will increase which has a

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direct impact on the level of Council Tax or the Housing Revenue Account.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 -	Head of Leisure and Culture
Appendix 2 -	Head of Community Services
Appendix 3 -	Head of Environmental Services
Appendix 4 -	Head of Regulatory Services
Appendix 5 -	Corporate
Appendix 6 -	Head of Customer Access and Financial Support
Appendix 7 -	Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Appendix 8 -	Head of Housing Services
Appendix 9 -	Head of Planning and Regeneration

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no background papers identified.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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