

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4th February 2014

## FEES AND CHARGES REVIEW 2014/15

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

### 1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

To present the proposed fees and charges for 2014/15 for the Council's chargeable services.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

**The Committee is asked to RECCOMEND**

**that the fees and charges for 2014/15 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.

**That 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.

#### Financial Implications

- 3.2 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.

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- 3.3 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 £91K for 2014/15 compared to 2013/14.

### **Building Control**

- 3.4 Due to private providers and the detrimental impact this is having on our income generation, officers have looked at the price levels and believe that reducing the fees charged this will encourage more use of the Councils service.

As the statutory building control service is in direct competition with the private sector, the hitherto publication of set fees has had a significant detrimental effect on winning projects. Embracing the ability to offer project specific quotations will assist in retaining and improving workloads by excluding our fee information from private sector as much as is practicably possible.

Many customers have already become of the aware of the ability of local building control authorities to provide project specific quotation on request and the number of such requests is rising rapidly. The proposed fee publication assists in formalising this process and removes the disadvantage some customers may face if they chose to rely on published fees rather than requesting site specific quotations.

### **Legal Implications**

- 3.5 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**

- 3.6 The Committee is asked to recommend the new fees and charges to be implemented from 1st April 2014.

### **Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.7 No implications have been identified.

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## **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 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.

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