



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

No Specific Ward
Relevance

16th December 2009

FEES AND CHARGES - REVIEW 2010/11

(Head of Financial, Revenues and Benefits Services)

1. Purpose of Report

To present the proposed fees and charges for 2010/11 for the Council's chargeable services.

This report and each of the appendices was considered at a meeting of the Executive Committee on Wednesday 9th December.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that

- 1) other than in cases where:-
 - a) fees or charges are statutory;
 - b) fees and charges are set externally (for example under the Model Scheme of Charges for Building Control fees & charges);
 - c) the Council has delegated authority for Officers to vary fees and charges to take account of various circumstances; or
 - d) fees and charges are established under separate processes, for example the setting of Taxi Fares, or service charges set to recover actual costs

the proposed fees and charges for 2010/11, where for each Service area/Directorate they achieve an overall increase of at least 2% in income budgets and the fees and charges proposals have been agreed with the relevant Portfolio Holders, the proposed fees and charges for 2010/11, as listed in the appendices to the report, be approved; and

RECOMMEND that

- 2) in cases where fees and charges for 2010/11 have not been increased by an overall 2% as detailed in Appendix H attached to the report, the proposed fees and charges for 2010/11, as listed in the appendices to the report, be approved; and

3) in the case of the Home Support Service detailed in Appendix F

EITHER it be RESOLVED that

the charge for the service be increased by 2% as per the budget preparation guidelines to £10.50 per week; OR

RECOMMENDED that

the charge for the service be increased by £1.96 per year for three years to reflect the actual cost of the service giving a charge for the next three years of:

Year 1 (2010/11) - £12.26

Year 2 (2011/12) - £14.22

Year 3 (2012/13) - £16.18

3. Financial, Legal, Policy and Risk Implications

Financial Implications

- 3.1 There is a proposed increase on all fees and charges of 2%. The charges are proposed to take effect from 1st January 2010 in line with the change in VAT rate, which is due to increase from 15% to 17.5%.
- 3.2 There is no increase proposed for Leisure Service fees and charges this year. Where fees are vatable they will be increased by the VAT increase only. All other Leisure Services fees and charges will remain unchanged. An increase of 2% would achieve additional income to the Authority of £20,000.

Policy Implications

- 3.3 Where the fees and charges are increased by the proposed 2% as approved in the budget guidelines, the Committee is asked to resolve the new fees and charges to be implemented from the 1st January 2010.
- 3.4 Where the fees and charges have not been increased by 2%, the Committee is asked to recommend.

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

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

16th December 2009

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.

Risk Implications

- 3.6 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.

Report

4. Background

- 4.1 Comments relating to the individual services are shown in the Appendices.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 This current review has been carried out in accordance with the budget preparation guidelines reported to the Council on 7th December 2009.

5. Key Issues

The key issues relating to individual service areas have been detailed in the appendices.

6. Other Implications

Community Safety	:	None.
Human Resources	:	None.
Social Inclusion	:	The report includes a number of fees and charges where there are concessions to assist with issues relating to social exclusion / inclusion.
Sustainability	:	None.

7. Conclusion

The proposed charges set out in the appendixes should, if approved by Members, generate a 2% increase in income, unless otherwise stated.

8. Background Papers

Budget Guidelines, Report (Council 7th December 2009).
List of Legal Powers.

9. Consultation

Relevant Borough Council Officers have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

10. Author of Report

The author of this report is Teresa Kristunas (Head of Financial, Revenues and Benefits Services) who can be contacted on extension 3295 (e.mail: teresa.kristunas@redditchbc.gov.uk) for more information.

11. Appendices

- Appendix A - Head of HR & Communications.
- Appendix B - Head of Environment – Current and Proposed Fees and Charges
- Appendix C - Head of Operations - Current and Proposed Fees and Charges.
- Appendix D - Head of Planning and Building Control Services - Current and Proposed Fees and Charges.
- Appendix E - Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services - Current and Proposed Fees and Charges.
- Appendix F - Head of Housing – Current and Proposed Fees and Charges.
- Appendix G - Head of Financial, Revenues and Benefits Services – Current and Proposed Fees and Charges
- Appendix H - Head of Leisure & Arts - Current and Proposed Fees and Charges