

Report of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

Review of Fees and Charges

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to increase a range of the council's fees and charges with effect from the 1st January 2013.

Background

2. Across the council a wide range of services operate fees and charges for services provided, some of which attract VAT at the current rate of 20%. Where necessary the charges in the attached annexes have been rounded to prevent problems with small change.

Options and Analysis

3. Option 1 (recommended option) – Agree the fees and charges as set out in the annexes to the report.
4. This report focuses on those fees that were last reviewed 12 months ago in January 2012 and proposes an increase of approximately 5%, in line with the previous years increase, subject to minor variations due to roundings.
5. The table below summarises each service areas total fees and charges recommended for increase from 1st January 2013.

Service Area	£000
Registrars	464
Community Centres	25
Bereavement Services	1,440
Waste Services	238
Libraries, Information & Archives	405
Parks & Open Spaces	29
Housing Services	45
Transport, Highways & Planning	540
Total fee income recommended for increase from 1st Jan 2013	3,186

6. Additional income of £65k will be generated in 2013/14 from the increase in Crematorium fees and £17k from Registrars.
7. The table below summarises the areas which will be examined further as part of the 2013/15 budget strategy and any proposals will be included in the overall financial strategy if appropriate. Some fees below are set by statutory or regulatory bodies and are therefore only permitted to increase from the 1st April. The remaining service areas are currently reviewing their charging policy, to ensure that any increase will avoid an adverse impact either on service users or the volume of activity in these areas.

Service Area	£000
Environmental Health & Trading Standards	85
Regulatory Services	650
Pest Control	82
Waste Services (inc Commercial Waste)	2,094
Sport & Leisure	1,842
Housing	477
Parking	7,198
City Centre & Markets	733
Public Conveniences	324
Guildhall and Mansion House	45
Planning	129
Integrated Young People's Service	38
Adult Social Care	366
Total fee income under consideration for increase from 1st April 2013	14,063

8. In addition to the income above, certain fees, such as planning fees, are set nationally and are increased at the appropriate time in line with national policy and specific details of these will not be included in the budget strategy report.
9. Option 2 – Agree a different increase to that proposed.

Consultation

10. No specific consultation has been carried out for this report. However, the level of all fees and charges is informed by the extensive consultation carried out as part of the development of the budget.

Council Plan

11. This report demonstrates effective management of the councils resources.

Implications

12. The implications are:

- Financial - the fees and charges increases outlined in the annex to this report will generate additional income of £32k in the remainder of the current financial year with a full year effect of £128k in 2013/14. This assumes there will be the same level of activity across all services.
- Human Resources - there are no specific human resource implications to this report.
- Equalities – all council services complete Equalities Impact Assessments to ensure that the charges levied on users are fair and take into account any equalities issues.
- Legal - there are no legal implications to this report.
- Crime and Disorder - there are no specific crime and disorder implications to this report.
- Information Technology - there are no information technology implications to this report.
- Property - there are no property implications to this report.
- Other - there are no other implications to this report.

Risk Management

13. There is a risk that the increase in charge could result in users deciding not to use a service. Individual service areas will continue to monitor activity to ensure any loss of income is identified and mitigated by other savings.

Recommendations

14. Members are asked to approve option 1 and increase the relevant fees and charges as set out in the attached annexes from 1 January 2013.

Reason: To enable the council to effectively manage its budget.

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	Ian Floyd, Director of Customer and Business Support Services		
	Report Approved	√	Date 23.11.12
Wards Affected: All			
For further information please contact the author of the report			

Annex 1 – List of proposed fees and charges