

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 2nd January 2012.

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.
3. This report mainly focuses on those fees that were last reviewed 12 months ago in January 2011 and proposes an increase of 5%, based on the current rate of inflation (as at October 2011).

Options and Analysis

4. Option 1 (recommended option) – Agree the fees and charges as set out in the annexes to the report. The majority of fees and charges have been increased by 5%, subject to minor variations due to roundings. No increases are proposed on sports charges, adult social care, car parking and markets at this time as it is felt that any increase in these areas would have an adverse impact either on service users or the volume of activity in these areas. These areas will be examined further as part of the 2012/14 budget strategy and any proposals included in the overall financial strategy if appropriate.
5. Option 2 – Agree a different increase to that proposed.

Consultation

6. 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.

Corporate Priorities

7. This report demonstrates effective management of the councils resources

Implications

8. The implications are:
- Financial - the fees and charges increases outlined in the annex to this report will generate additional income of £30k in the remainder of the current financial year with a full year effect of £120k in 2012/13. 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

9. 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

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

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
Wards Affected: All			
For further information please contact the author of the report			