
**Meeting of Executive Members for City
Strategy and Advisory Panel**

27 January 2009

Report of the Director of City Strategy and Director of Resources

**REVENUE BUDGET 2009/10 – CITY STRATEGY FEES AND
CHARGES**

Summary

1. This report advises Members of the proposed fees and charges for the City Strategy portfolio for the financial year 2009/10 and the anticipated increase in income which they will generate. The Annex to the report sets out the detail of the individual charges.

Background

2. The fees and charges for City Strategy are complex and varied. Some are controlled by regulation, some by national guidelines and others by market forces or the cost of administering the service. In the City Strategy Revenue and Capital budget report elsewhere on the agenda, Members are advised of the effect on the service of budget reductions. The level of fees and charges has been set against this background of severe financial constraint and service reductions. Income from fees and charges is a key factor in setting budgets and totals approximately £9.5 million for the City Strategy portfolio. In ensuring a balanced budget, it is therefore essential that income is at least maintained, if not improved.

Proposals

3. This section sets out the key elements for Members' consideration. Only those with significant changes or provide significant income are highlighted.

Transport

Residents Parking

4. Residents parking schemes allow residents and visitors to park near their property. The council recovers the costs of administration and enforcement of residents parking schemes through charges for permits. For 2009-10 it is proposed to increase charges by the rate of inflation with a residents permit increasing from £90 to £93, with a slightly higher % rise for additional permits. It is also proposed to increase visitor permit charges from £1 to £1.10 the first increase since 2004/05.

Car Parking

5. The current budget for parking income totals £5.8 million and is therefore very important to the overall budget.
6. There have been only small changes in car park prices since 2004/05. There was an increase in the price of standard stay car parks for non-residents in 2008/09 however the cost to residents has not increased.
7. As part of the budget consideration it is proposed to increase charges at standard stay car parks at 20p per hour for non residents and 10p per hour for Minster badge holders. The charges for on-street car parking is proposed to increase from £1.50 to £1.70 per hour. The arrangements in place at Micklegate and Priory Street for parking under one hour will continue.

Planning

Land Charges

8. On 23rd December 2008 the Local Authorities (Charges for Property Searches) Regulations 2008 came into force. The regulations have been introduced as part of a long standing review of the Property Search market following an OFT investigation carried out in 2005. This has resulted in new Guidance from CLG on how property information is to be made available to Private Search Companies as well as how charges for that information are made.
9. The Regulations require that Local Authorities set fees for information which are cost based only. KPMG were commissioned by CLG in 2008 to produce a robust methodology for charging and it is on this that the regulations have been based.
10. As a result of the requirement to base charges on cost recovery it is necessary to reduce the fees accordingly as the Land Charges function has historically budgeted to make a surplus. The proposed fees are to reduce from £133 to £84. The revenue budget is assuming a loss in budgeted income of £100k from this reduction.

Consultation

11. This paper commences the Council's budget consultation, both in terms of formal discussions with the Business and Voluntary sectors, but also as a mechanism for the public to comment on the proposals made in the report.

Options

12. Members of EMAP are asked for their comments or alternative suggestions on the fees and charges proposals shown in the Annex.

Analysis

13. All the analysis is provided in the body of the report and the annexes.

Corporate Priorities

14. Fees and Charges proposals are a key element of the Council's budget process. Where fees can increase above inflation to provide savings this can free up resources to deal with key council priorities. The use of discounted prices for short cars and those with low emissions assists in the priority to "increase the use of public and other environmentally friendly modes of transport".

Implications

Financial

15. The financial implications are dealt with in the body of the report.

Other Implications

16. There are no Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder or Information Technology, Property or Other implications to this report

Risk Management

17. The budget for city strategy is supported by income from fees and charges totalling £9.5m. Fees and charges levels are therefore of major significance in ensuring a balanced budget is set especially since the income generated is often dependent on external factors such as housing market, general economic climate. The income from fees and charges will continue to be monitored as part of the budget monitoring cycle.

Recommendations

18. The Executive Member Advisory Panel is invited to provide comments on the fees and charges proposals for consultation for 2009/10 contained in this report.

Reason: As part of the consultation for the 2009/10 budget setting process.

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Specialist Implications Officer

There are no specialist implications

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report.

Annex – Fees and Charges Proposals 2009/10