

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



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| DATE | 28th November 2018 |
| PORTFOLIO | Resources & Performance Management |
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Fees & Charges Tariff 2019/20

PURPOSE

1. To inform Members of the Council's proposed fees and charges from 1 January 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive recommend to Full Council:

2. Approval of the proposed tariff of fees & charges from 1 January 2019 with an increase of 3% as outlined in Appendix A attached.
3. To authorise the Head of Finance and Property, in consultation with the relevant Head of Service, to determine any new charges or changes to existing charges relating to the preparation and approval of the 2019/20 revenue budget.
4. To authorise the Executive Portfolio Members to amend fees & charges periodically in their own area on the basis that overall income in their portfolio area remains the same as a minimum.
5. To authorise the Strategic Head of Economy and Growth, in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources and Performance Management and the Head of Finance and Property, to adjust fees and charges in relation to the Markets service from time to time to reflect current trading conditions and the overall position of the market.
6. To authorise the Head of Housing and Development Control, in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources and Performance Management and the Head of Finance and Property, to adjust fees and charges in relation to statutory planning fees should Parliamentary confirmation be received.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

7. To set the Council's fees and charges from 1 January 2019 and assist in finalising the 2019/20 budget process.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

8. In line with the Council's commercial strategy, Heads of Service were asked to:
 - a) ensure that no charge has been omitted and the schedule is complete,
 - b) confirm increases at an overall 3% for the service (excluding areas where either no increase is proposed or where they are set statutorily),
 - c) confirm that the fees and corresponding VAT rates are correct,
 - d) confirm the date of the fee increase,
 - e) give notification of any potential new areas for the introduction of fees and charges within their service area and of the proposed level of such fees and charges from 1 January 2019,
 - f) make suggestions/proposals as to where income can be found in future to help alleviate the Council's budget pressures as identified in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, and
 - g) identify where services are being provided at a subsidy and where fees and charges should be increased by more than 3% in order to maintain the viability of service provision.
9. A summary of the key points of the proposed fees and charges are:
10. Local Land Charges
There will not be an increase in Local Land Charges fees.
11. Garden Waste Collection Charges
There will not be an increase in the annual charge for Green Waste Collection in 2019/20.
12. Building Control Fees
These fees will increase by 3% and were ratified by the Pennine Lancashire Building Control Joint Committee on 30 October 2018. However, these increases are for fee-earning work and used to offset costs. Any excess income is transferred to an earmarked reserve in Blackburn's accounts for future use in providing the service. Therefore, it does not result in any increased income to the Council as they form part of the shared service with Blackburn with Darwen Council.
13. Car Parking
Taking into consideration representations made by the Town Centre Partnership during the recent consultations on the Town Centre and Canalside Masterplan, it is proposed not to increase pay and display parking charges. Pay and display parking charges shall remain the same across the whole borough and have not been increased since January 2016. Contract parking shall be subject to the inflationary increase of 3%.
14. Licensing fees
The introduction of the new Animal Welfare Regulations, which came into effect on 1 October 2018, has required a new set of fees. It is a consolidating set of regulations to bring all animal welfare licences under one regime. The proposed charges are shown on page 110 of Appendix A.

15. The following increase was approved by Full Council in previous meetings as part of the savings proposals:-
16. Cemeteries & Crematorium
In September 2016 approval was given to increase these fees by 8.35% each year over a three year period to achieve £89k additional income in 2019/20. This is the last year of the three year increases covered by the original approval.
17. Pest Control Charges – Commercial Properties
Approval was given in September 2018 to introduce new charges for pest control charges on commercial properties which will raise an estimated £10k of income in 2019/20.
18. Street Renaming and Numbering Charges
In September 2018 approval was given to introduce new charges for renaming and numbering existing schemes which will raise an estimated £3k of income in 2019/20.
19. Thompson Park Car Parking Charges
Approval was given in September 2018 to introduce car parking charges for the new car park at Thompson Park as part of the refurbishment works that were completed in 2018/19. This will raise an estimated £15k of income in 2019/20. The charges have been introduced as part of the business case for the £1.2m development of Thompson Park which has seen a major refurbishment of the park and has been undertaken in conjunction with the Heritage Lottery Fund.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

20. The assumed increase in income from the proposed changes to the fees and charges tariff presented in this report is approximately £70k in 2019/20. Any increase in fees and charges that relate to savings proposals agreed previously are in addition to this and noted above.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

21. None directly as a consequence of this report.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

22. None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

23. None.

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

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