

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



DATE	10 December 2019
PORTFOLIO	Resources & Performance Management
REPORT AUTHOR	Asad Mushtaq
TEL NO	(01282) 425011 ext 7173
EMAIL	amushtaq@burnley.gov.uk

Fees & Charges Tariff 2020/21

PURPOSE

1. To inform Members of the Council’s proposed fees and charges from 1 January 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive recommend to Full Council:

2. Approval of the proposed tariff of fees & charges from 1 January 2020 with an increase of 2% 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 2020/21 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.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

6. To set the Council’s fees and charges from 1 January 2020 and assist in finalising the 2020/21 budget process.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

7. 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 2% 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 2020,
 - 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 2% in order to maintain the viability of service provision.
8. A summary of the key points of the proposed fees and charges are:
9. Local Land Charges
There will be no increase in Local Land Charges fees.
10. Garden Waste Collection Charges
There will be no increase in the annual charge for Green Waste Collection in 2020/21.
11. Building Control Fees
There has been an increase in two specific fee areas: 'Installation of Windows and Doors' has been increased by 8% and 'Renovation of a Single Thermal Element' has been increased by 9%. This is to bring these charges in line with those of other Local Authorities. No other increases to charges have been applied. The fees were ratified by the Pennine Lancashire Building Control Joint Committee on 19 November 2019. Income from fees and charges is 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.
12. Car Parking
Following feedback from businesses through the recent Business Improvement District (BID) consultation, the current years pay & display and contract parking charges have been frozen for a period of 12 months. This is intended to help support general trading conditions within the borough. Contract parking was last increased January 2019 however pay and display parking charges have not been increased since January 2016.
13. Commercial Waste
Commercial waste annual contracts will increase by between 5% and 6%. This equates to a £2.50 increase for general waste sacks. The increase to bin charges will be as follows: £0.25 for a 240 litre bin, £0.45 for a 360 litre bin, £0.60 for a 660 litre bin and £1.00 for a 1,100 litre bin, per bin per lift. This is to cover the anticipated increase in

Lancashire County Council disposal charges. There will be no increases to container costs or the Recycling Annual Contract charge.

14. Fixed Penalty Notices

Littering Fixed Penalty Notices are to increase by 6%, which is a £5 increase. Dog Fouling Fixed Penalty Notices are to increase by 33% in line with the Working Group recommendation due to the nature of the offence and that is more difficult to catch offenders. This equates to a £25 increase. There is no increase to Side Waste Fixed Penalty Notices. Car Parking Fixed Penalty Notices are to be increased by 2%, which is a £1 increase.

15. Licensing fees

Licensing fees are to be increased by 2%, where the charge is not statutory.

16. Taxi Licensing

Taxi Licensing fees are set by Licensing Committee and are to be considered at their meeting in November 2019.

17. Towneley Hall

An updated fee structure has been introduced at Towneley Hall, especially around events to reflect the services currently on offer.

18. Cemeteries & Crematorium

Cemetery and Crematorium charges have been benchmarked against the charges of neighbouring authorities. Following this exercise it has been decided to freeze the current year's charges for a period of 12 months.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

19. The assumed increase in income from the proposed changes to the fees and charges tariff presented in this report is approximately £36k in 2020/21.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

20. None directly as a consequence of this report.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

21. None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

22. None.

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

Amy Johnson – Principal Accountant