

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



DATE	8th December 2020
PORTFOLIO	Resources & Performance Management
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Fees & Charges Tariff 2021/22

PURPOSE

1. To inform Members of the Council's proposed fees and charges from 1 April 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive recommend to Full Council:

2. Approval of the proposed tariff of fees & charges from 1 April 2021 with an increase of 2.5% 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 2021/22 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 April 2021 and assist in finalising the 2021/22 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 2.5% 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 April 2021,
 - 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 2.5% 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
The annual charge for Green Waste Collection in 2020/21 will increase from £30.00 to £35.00. An early payment incentive will be offered for an eight week period, where the charge will remain at £30.00. A breakdown of garden waste collection charges charged by local authorities nationally can be seen in Appendix 2.
11. Building Control Fees
It is proposed that fees be increased by 2% with effect from **1st January 2021**. The fees have been agreed by members of the Pennine Lancashire Building Control Joint Committee and are therefore subject to change. 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
There will be no increase to car parking charges (pay and display and contract parking).
13. Commercial Waste
Commercial waste annual contracts will increase by 2.5%.
14. Bulky & White Goods
Bulky and white goods collection will be reduced by 50% for a period of 3 months from 1st January 2021. The income foregone will be met from savings on the Community Skips project.

15. Fixed Penalty Notices
Several new Fixed Penalty Notices have been introduced, including those relating to Covid-19 business restriction offences. There is to be no increase to existing Fixed Penalty Notices.
16. Licensing fees
Licensing fees are to be increased by 2.5%, where the charge is not statutory.
17. Taxi Licensing
Taxi Licensing fees are set by Licensing Committee and are to be considered at their meeting in November 2020.
18. Towneley Hall
Daily car parking fees to be frozen at the 2020/21 rate. All other fees and charges to be increased by 2.5%.
19. Cemeteries & Crematorium
There will be no increase to Cemetery and Crematorium charges (no increase applied in 2020/21). Appendix 3 provides a breakdown of cremation fees charged by other local authorities nationally and Appendix 4 provides a regional comparison of both crematorium and burial charges regionally.
20. Market Hall
Market Hall fees and charges have not previously been included within the fees & charges schedule. The schedule has been updated to include these charges, however it must be noted that although these charges were not previously included within the schedule they have previously been applied and therefore will not generate any new additional income to the Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

21. The assumed increase in income from the proposed changes to the fees and charges tariff presented in this report is approximately £52k in 2021/22.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

22. None directly as a consequence of this report.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

23. None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

24. None.

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

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