

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



DATE	01 December 2021
PORTFOLIO	Resources & Performance Management
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Fees & Charges Tariff 2022/23
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PURPOSE

1. To inform Members of the Council's proposed fees and charges from 1 April 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive recommend to Full Council:

2. Approval of the proposed tariff of fees & charges from 1 April 2022 with an increase of 2.0% as outlined in Appendix A attached, with a range of exceptions as outlined in the report.
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 2022/23 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 2022 and assist in finalising the 2022/23 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 2.0% 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 2022,
 - 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 2.0% 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 to the Green Waste Collection charge of £35.00. In addition the early bird discount offered in 2021/22 will no longer be offered as it was intended as an incentive during year 1 of the price increase. No increase to the fees and charges levels will result in approximately £6k income foregone (assuming a 2% increase).
11. Building Control Fees
It is proposed that fees be increased by 2% with effect from **1st January 2022**. The fees have yet to be formally 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). No increase to the fees and charges levels will result in approximately £15k pay and display income and £6k contract parking income foregone (assuming a 2% increase).
13. Commercial Waste
Commercial waste annual contracts will increase by 2.0% with the exception of 'Recycling Annual Contract - Weekly Collections' where there will be no increase. The increase of 2% will result in approximately £4k additional income.

14. Bulky & White Goods

There will be no increase to bulky and white goods charges. No increase to the fees and charges levels will result in approximately £1k income foregone (assuming a 2% increase).

15. Fixed Penalty Notices

There is to be no increase to existing Fixed Penalty Notices.

16. Licensing fees

Licensing fees are to be increased by 2.0%, where the charge is not statutory. The increase of 2% will result in approximately £3k additional income.

17. Taxi Licensing

Taxi Licensing fees are set by Licensing Committee and are to be considered at their meeting in November 2021. Should taxi licences fees require formal consultation, this could lead to a slight delay in implementation.

18. Towneley Hall

Daily car parking fees to be frozen at the 2020/21 rate along with the entrance fee. All other fees and charges to be increased by 2.0%. No increase to the car parking fees and charges levels will result in approximately £3k income forgone (assuming a 2% increase). An increase of 2% to other fees and charges will result in approximately £1k additional income.

19. Cemeteries & Crematorium

There will be no increase to Cemetery and Crematorium charges (no increase applied in 2020/21). No increase to the fees and charges levels will result in approximately £29k income foregone (assuming a 2% increase).

20. Market Hall

Market hall fees and charges to be increased by 2%. The increase of 2% will result in approximately £1k additional income.

21. Mobile Home Fit and Proper Person Assessment

A new charge for the above assessment to be introduced.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION
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22. The assumed increase in income from the proposed changes to the fees and charges tariff presented in this report is approximately £32k in 2022/23.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

23. None directly as a consequence of this report.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

24. Scrutiny Committee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

25. None.

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

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