

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



DATE	30 November 2022
PORTFOLIO	Resources & Performance Management
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Fees & Charges Tariff 2023/24

PURPOSE

1. To inform Members of the Council’s proposed fees and charges from 1 April 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive approve and recommend to Full Council to approve the :

2. proposed tariff of fees & charges from 1 April 2023 with an increase of 5% as outlined in Appendix A attached, with a range of exceptions as outlined in the report.
3. authorisation to 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 2023/24 revenue budget.
4. authorisation to Executive Portfolio Members to amend fees & charges periodically in their own area with the prior agreement of the Head of Finance and Property.
5. authorisation to 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 2023 and assist in finalising the 2023/24 budget process.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

7. It is proposed to increase fees and charges by 5% due to the current high levels of inflation. As at September 2022 CPI inflation was at 10.1%. It is appreciated that it is not palatable to increase fees and charges by this rate, therefore an increase of 5% is proposed to help fund the increasing costs of the provision of services.
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 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 2023,
 - 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 5% 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
Local Land Charges fees will increase by 5%. The Local Land Charges service is currently being migrated to HMLR (with completion anticipated by April 2023) after which time we will no longer be responsible for or charge for LLC1s, or for carrying out Personal searches, which will result in a reduction in land charges income received of approximately £8k. The charge for LLC1s has been kept in the Tariff as depending on the date of migration we may still carry out this service for a short period. The increase of 5% across the remaining charges will result in approximately £3k additional income.
11. Garden Waste Collection Charges
The Green Waste Collection charge will be increased from £35 to £40. The increase will result in approximately £42k additional income.
12. Building Control Fees
It is proposed that fees be increased by 10% with effect from **1st January 2023**. The fees have been formally agreed by members of the Pennine Lancashire Building Control Joint Committee. Under the Pennine Lancashire Building Control 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 with Darwen Council'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.

The Pennine Lancashire Building Control shared service is due to end 31st March 2023, after which any excess income generated will be transferred to an earmarked reserve

within the Council's accounts for future use in providing the service. Therefore, it does not result in any increased income to the Council.

13. Car Parking

Pay and display and contract parking fees will be increased by 5% (rounded to the nearest 10p), excluding Towneley Hall car parks included in paragraph 19, which will result in approximately £51k additional income. Pay and display charges were last increased in 2016 and contract parking fees in 2019.

14. Commercial Waste

Commercial waste charge per bin lift will increase by an average 9% across each bin size (240 litre – 1100 litre bin) which will generate approximately £30k additional income. There will be no increases to the cost of 'General Waste Sack - Roll 25 Sacks' and the 'Recycling Annual Contract - Weekly Collections'.

15. Bulky & White Goods

Bulky and white goods charges will increase from £13.80 to £15.00. The increase will result in approximately £6k additional income.

16. Fixed Penalty Notices

Fixed Penalty Notices will increase by 5% where the charge is not statutory. The increase of 5% will result in approximately £3k additional income.

A new charge has been implemented for a Fixed Penalty Notice (Smoke Control).

17. Licensing fees

Licensing fees are to be increased by 5%, where the charge is not statutory. The increase of 5% will result in approximately £5k additional income.

New charges have been implemented for variations to licences (inspections and no inspections) and for re-evaluation of star rating of animal welfare licence.

18. Taxi Licensing

Taxi Licensing fees are set by Licensing Committee and are to be considered at their meeting in November 2022. Should taxi licences fees require formal consultation, this could lead to a slight delay in implementation.

19. Towneley Hall

Daily car parking fees will increase from £1.50 to £2.00 and contract parking fees will increase from £40 and £61 to £53.20 and £81.10 respectively. The increase will result in approximately £37k additional income.

As members will be aware, building works are due to commence at Towneley Hall imminently as part of the restoration of the Hall. As a result, the admission fee is to be reduced by 50% during the period October 2022 to January 2025. The decrease of 50% will result in a reduction in income of approximately £15k.

Charges for the hire of rooms will be suspended during the period October 2022 to January 2025 as the rooms will be closed due to the restoration of the Hall. This will result in a reduction in income of approximately £15k.

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 £251k in 2023/24.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

21. None directly as a consequence of this report.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

22. None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

23. None.

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

Amy Johnson – Finance Manager