

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



DATE	14 November 2017
PORTFOLIO	Resources & Performance Management
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Fees & Charges Tariff 2018/19

PURPOSE

1. To inform Members of the Council's proposed fees and charges from 1 January 2018.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive recommend to Full Council:

2. Approval of the proposed tariff of fees & charges from 1 January 2018 as outlined in Appendix A attached.
3. To authorise the Head of Finance 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 2018/19 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 Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources and Performance Management and the Head of Finance 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 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 2018 and assist in finalising the 2018/19 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 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 2018,
 - 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.
9. In addition to previously approved changes, the following proposals have been put forward by Heads of Service for approval:
10. Other Legal Fees

It is proposed to increase the non-statutory element of these fees by 10%. This will generate an additional £1.2k. The reason to increase these fees is to recover the actual costs incurred. However, these remain lower than private sector comparables.
11. Planning Application Fees

In September 2017 Full Council approved the proposal to increase statutory planning fees by 20% along with the majority of Councils. However we are still awaiting Parliamentary confirmation and will report on final agreement at the February 2018 Budget Council. The proposal is now to also increase the non-statutory Pre-Application fees by 5%.
12. Local Land Charges

There will not be any increase in Land Charges fees.
13. Building Control Fees

These fees will increase by 3% and were ratified by the Pennine Lancashire Building Control Joint Committee on 31 October 2017. 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.
14. Car Parking

It is proposed that there will a freeze in pay and display car parking charges.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

15. The assumed increase in income from the proposed increases in the fees and charges tariff is approximately £44k in 2018/19 prior to the identification of new income streams and the previously approved increases in excess of 2%.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

16. None directly as a consequence of this report.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

17. None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

18. None.

FURTHER INFORMATION**PLEASE CONTACT:****David Donlan – Accountancy Division Manager****ALSO:**