



DECISION OF COUNCILLOR PETER BRYANT

THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

**WITH ADVICE FROM
THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT**

DECISION NO 15/16 DE 300

SUBJECT: Development and Environment Fees and Charges 2017/2018

Background:

Fees and charges represent an important source of income, providing funding to assist in achieving the Council's objectives. Some of our fees and charges are effectively set by legislation but many are locally determined.

Income derived from charging will be used to offset the costs of providing the service being charged for, including support service costs. In setting an appropriate level of fees and charges, managers also take into account their client groups and corporate objectives.

DECISION:

In accordance with the Council's constitution, this decision seeks approval for the proposed increases to fees and charges detailed in appendix 1 that are over 5% and up to 10% or are estimated to generate additional annual revenue income of between £100,000 and £300,000.

Reasons:

- Raising revenue from charges for services is an important element in the overall financing of Council services and activities and helps to deliver service and strategic objectives.
- Consideration is therefore given, on a regular basis, to the scope for raising revenue through charges for services and to reviewing the appropriateness and adequacy of the levels of charges being proposed or actually in force.
- Services are generally given an increase in their income targets each year in accordance with agreed budget principles. This will be achieved through a combination of increases to fees and charges, increased use, and through rental and sales income where appropriate. Where information is available, changes to fees and charges will take account of changing

circumstances and patterns of service use as well as known and predicted changes to service costs.

- There is a general policy presumption that the levels of fees and charges should rise, each year, in line with the rate of inflation. Accordingly, the charges proposed in each service area should be sufficient to meet the additional fees and charges income reflected in the final draft budget, which is detailed in an annual report to the Executive.
- The following represents the range of factors, which service managers need to take into account when setting fees and charges:-
 - Charges determined by primary or secondary legislation
 - Service costs, including inflation
 - Service supply and demand
 - Market conditions
 - Benchmarking with other authorities and other providers
 - Affordability

Other Alternatives Considered:

Service Managers considered alternative pricing within the guidance / framework as described above.

Risk Assessment:

We do not anticipate any risks associated with this decision

Financial Implications:

In general terms, the 2017/18 budget setting process added 1.25% to income budgets, although in some areas a specific additional target was included. The fees set out in this decision notice are designed to ensure that these budget targets are achievable.

Implications for Future Years:

Fees and charges are reviewed on an annual basis.

Signed.....Executive Member for Environment

Dated.....

Confirmation of Advice Given

Signed.....Director of Development & Environment

Dated.....

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Appendix 1 (Cllr Bryant)

Increases over 5% and up to 10% or are estimated to generate additional annual revenue income of between £100,000 to £300,000	2016/17		2017/18		% Increase	New Charge? Y/N
	charge		charge			
Environmental Protection						
Contaminated Land Enquiries - Minimum fee (less than 30 mins)	£38.00		£40.00		5.26%	N
Contaminated Land Enquiries - Per hour (or part thereof)	£72.00		£76.00		5.56%	N
Food Safety and Trading Standards						
Dog Breeders annual licence Any number of breeding bitches	£185.00		£200.00		8.11%	N
Zoo licence Initial fee	£400.00		£440.00		10.00%	N
Zoo licence Special / Informal	£225.00		£240.00		6.67%	N
Pet Shops Renewal	£170.00		£180.00		5.88%	N
Acupuncture, skin piercing, electrolysis initial combined registration	£125.00		£135.00		8.00%	N
Acupuncture, skin piercing, electrolysis Temporary premises	£55.00		£60.00		9.09%	N
Level 2 Food Hygiene & Safety Course	£70.00		£75.00		7.14%	N
Level 2 Health Food & Special Diets Course	£65.00		£70.00		7.69%	N
Year round firework licence	£500.00		£550.00		10.00%	N

