

Fees & Charges 2021/22

Report of the Finance Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

1. That the Fees and Charges for 2021/22, as set out in the Annexes to the report, be approved.
2. That Heads of Service be authorised to increase relevant fees and charges in line with statutory levels should they change following this report.

SUMMARY:

- Fees and Charges are set annually for the forthcoming Financial Year and are presented for approval.
- Most charges are to be increased in line with inflation or kept at the same level as 2020/21. Significant increases from 2020/21 are explained in the body of the report.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Fees and Charges are reported annually to Councillors as part of the budget process. This report provides information on proposed Fees and Charges for 2021/22.
- 1.2 By reporting Fees and Charges separately, as an individual component of the budget process, Councillors can provide direction on the level of charges across the Council.
- 1.3 Proposed increases to existing charges and charges for new services are attached in the Annexes to the report for approval.
- 1.4 The main inflation index is the Consumer Prices' Index. Using the Bank of England's forecast as at the beginning of August 2020, services have been advised to use 1.7% as a guide for increasing charges in line with inflation.
- 1.5 Heads of Service have also been asked to consider the impact of increases to fees and charges on their customers before recommending any increases for next year.

2 Background

- 2.1 Heads of Service were asked to provide details of the Fees and Charges they wish to levy in 2021/22 for the services they provide.

2.2 The attached Annexes to the report show, in Budget Book Format, the level of charges in 2020/21, the proposed charges for 2021/22 and the percentage change between the two.

2.3 In the majority of cases, fees and charges have been kept the same or raised in line with inflation.

3 Consultations/Communications

3.1 Heads of Service and Managers have been asked to provide details of the charges they wish to make in 2021/22.

4 Fees & Charges – changes by Service

4.1 The following paragraphs give explanations of any charges that are recommended to be increased by more than inflation or where the basis for charging for an item has changed.

4.2 Community & Leisure (Annex 1)

Charges across the Service have largely been increased in line with inflation or remain frozen at 2020/21 levels.

The fee structure for the Hire of Ground at Charlton Sports Centre, Picket Twenty, Romsey Sports Centre and Hunts Farm Sports Centre has been made clearer with set charges proposed based on previous charges plus inflation.

A set of charges has been included for the new facilities at Ganger Farm which are due to open next year.

4.3 Corporate (Annex 2)

The charges shown in the Corporate section remain unchanged from 2020/21.

4.4 Environmental Service (Annex 3)

Most charges made by the Environmental Service are recommended to remain the same as in 2020/21 or increase in line with inflation. Some increases, such

as for garden waste and operative and van hire are slightly higher than inflation but are small in absolute terms.

4.5 Housing & Environmental Health Service (Annex 4)

Charges in this Service have been frozen at 2020/21 levels or increased in line with inflation.

The exception is swimming pool water sampling which has been increased to bring it in line with private water supply testing and better reflects the actual cost of providing the service.

4.6 Legal & Democratic Service (Annex 5)

The majority of fees in this service are statutorily set and remain the same as for 2020/21.

Land charges have been increased by slightly more than inflation to allow for a slight increase in fees paid to Hampshire County Council for highways enquiries.

Charges for scrap metal licences and hackney carriage operator licences have been increased by slightly more than inflation in order to ensure that costs are covered.

4.7 Planning & Building Service (Annex 6)

The majority of planning fees have been frozen at 2020/21 levels.

Building control fees have been increased by approximately 1.7% in line with inflation.

4.8 Property & Asset Management Service (Annex 7)

The majority of charges with this service have been increased in line with inflation, apart from car parking tariffs which have been frozen at 2020/21 levels.

Zone Z car parking has increased from £15 to £40. Most on-street car parking permits are now administered by Hampshire County Council. This charge relates to an 8 space car park on Alma Road and brings the charge in line with that charged by Hampshire for similar resident permits in the area.

4.9 Revenues Service (Annex 8)

The charges shown in the Revenues section remain unchanged from 2020/21.

5 Risk Management

- 5.1 An evaluation of the risks associated with the matters in this report indicates that further risk assessment is not needed because the changes / issues covered do not represent significant risks.

6 Resource Implications

- 6.1 The impact of the proposals will be considered when preparing Service estimates for 2021/22.

7 Equality Issues

- 7.1 An EQIA screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's EQIA methodology and no potential for unlawful discrimination has been identified, therefore a full EQIA has not been carried out.

8 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

- 8.1 Heads of Service have considered the services currently available to the public and the Fees and Charges applicable to them.
- 8.2 Based on recommendations from Heads of Service, this report seeks approval of the rates of Fees and Charges for 2021/22.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
None			
<u>Confidentiality</u>			
It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	8	File Ref:	N/A
(Portfolio: Finance) Councillor M Flood			
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