

Fees & Charges 2022/23

Report of the Finance Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

1. That the fees and charges for 2022/23, 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 2021/22. Significant increases from 2021/22 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 2022/23.
- 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 this 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 2021, services have been advised to use 2.2% 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 2022/23 for the services they provide.

- 2.2 The attached Annexes show, in Budget Book format, the level of charges in 2021/22, the proposed charges for 2022/23 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 2022/23.

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 2021/22 levels.

An increase of 3.45% for a junior day ticket at the running track in Charlton is due to rounding of a small increase of 5p.

A number of new charges have been included. These are:

- The hire of the Pavilion Room at East Anton and Abbotswood Sports Ground at £18 per hour to cover the cost of opening and cleaning the facility.
- A charge for the use of a storage cage at East Anton of £10 per month or £100 per annum.
- At Picket Twenty, charges are being introduced for external activities (e.g. use by a cycle club at £14.40 per hour with a supplement of £5 for the use of changing accommodation and toilets).
- Charges are also to be introduced for the usage of the hall at Picket Twenty.
- At Hunts Farm, a training area with floodlights has been set up in response to the delay to opening Ganger Farm. The use of the floodlights is currently a trial and free of charge (usual charges apply for hire of the pitch). If it proves popular and demand still exists for this facility next year after Ganger Farm is open, then it is proposed to introduce a charge for the floodlights from September 2022 at £7.05 as for other sites.
- A charge for portable floodlights at Ganger Farm is also to be added.

4.3 **Corporate (Annex 2)**

The charges shown in the Corporate section remain unchanged from 2021/22.

4.4 **Environmental Service (Annex 3)**

Most charges made by the Environmental Service are recommended to remain the same as in 2021/22 or increase in line with inflation.

The purchase of a large four wheeled bin for waste collection (communal waste) is proposed to increase by 22.58% from £310 to £380. This is to reflect the increased cost to the Council of buying these bins.

The words 'Fixed Penalty Notice' have been added to the charge 'Littering (including litter from a vehicle)' to enable an additional Civil Penalty to be included for 'Littering from a Vehicle'.

4.5 **Finance & Revenues Service (Annex 4)**

The charges shown in the Finance & Revenues section remain unchanged from 2021/22.

4.6 **Housing & Environmental Health Service (Annex 5)**

Charges in this Service have been frozen at 2021/22 levels or increased in line with inflation.

The charge for 'Day care for dogs – home facilities' is to be deleted as there is no longer a distinction between types of home care for dogs and it is now covered by the charge 'Home boarding for dogs'.

The additional wording 'plus pro-rata charge out rate if visit exceeds 30 mins duration' has been added for clarity to the Issue of Health Certificate charge.

Under 'Dog Control', the collection fee now includes the word 'minimum' with the added paragraph to state that additional transports costs will be applied where applicable.

A new charge has been added under Caravan Site Licences for 'Fit and Proper person register application' at £224. The charge has been set at a level that is expected to cover the costs of administering the application.

4.7 **Legal & Democratic Service (Annex 6)**

The majority of fees in this service are statutorily set and remain the same as for 2021/22.

Some land charges fees have been increased by more than inflation primarily to allow for an increase in fees paid to Hampshire County Council.

4.8 Planning & Building Service (Annex 7)

The majority of planning fees have been frozen at 2021/22 levels.

New charges have been added for Enforcement Notices – Letters of Compliance.

Building control fees have been increased by approximately 2.2% in line with inflation.

4.9 Property & Asset Management Service (Annex 8)

The majority of charges with this service have been increased in line with inflation, apart from car parking tariffs which have been frozen at 2021/22 levels.

Zone Z car parking has increased from £40 to £50, an increase of 25%. 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.

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 2022/23.

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 2022/23.

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

None

Confidentiality

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
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(Portfolio: Finance) Councillor M Flood

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Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	27 October 2021
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