

Report to Portfolio Holder for Public Protection

Subject: Public Protection Fees and Charges 2021/2022

Date: 29 January 2021

Author: Head of Environment

Wards Affected: Borough-wide

Purpose

The report details a revised set of Fees and Charges for Public Protection, and seeks approval for their introduction from 1st April 2021.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

The revised Fees and Charges for 2021/22, as detailed in Appendix A, be approved for their introduction from 1 April 2021.

1 Background

- 1.1 A 3% income inflation increase for discretionary income has been agreed by Cabinet for 2021/22. In addition there will be an efficiency increase of 2.5%. This was the optimum figure in terms of maintaining the income from Fees and Charges to support a balanced budget.
- 1.2 With Portfolio Holder and relevant Director approval, discretion can be made to apply varying percentage increases to relevant Fees and Charges as long as the overall cash amount for that area are met. This

allows consideration to be made for factors that influence the rate at which fees and charges are set.

1.3 These factors include:

- The Borough's priorities.
- The comparative price of neighbouring authorities and the cost benefit of the service.
- The effect an increase in price would have on the activity, including customer resistance.
- The cost of buying in products and services to carry out the Councils functions.
- The cost of carrying out compliance visits and inspections.

2 Proposal

2.1 It is proposed the Fees and Charges are revised as detailed in Appendix A.

2.2 The proposed fee levels are limited to a cost recovery basis when referring to licensing matters.

3 Alternative Options

3.1 An alternative percentage increase for inflation could have been applied. This, however, would not have been in consideration of the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan or current CPI inflation measures.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 Applying the proposed Fees and Charges detailed in this report will increase discretionary income and attain the income target set.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 The power to charge for the services in Appendix A derive from specific powers such as the Scrap Metal Dealer's Act 2013, or the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (stray dogs), or more general powers such as s.93 Local Government Act 2003 or the Localism Act 2011. Where there is a

specific statutory power to charge for a service, charges should be set in accordance with that power and any restrictions imposed. Charges levied for discretionary services under a general power, should be at a level which ensures cost recovery and that year on year the budget balances, and should not be set to deliver a profit. Careful consideration of the costs associated with the service need to be undertaken to ensure costs are recovered.

6 Equalities Implications

6.1 None

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

7.1 None

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix A – Revised Fees and Charges 2021/22 - including a comparison with the existing fees and the percentage increase applied.

9 Background Papers

9.1 None

10 Reasons for Recommendations

10.1 To contribute to the delivery of a balanced budget both in 2021/22 and in the medium term and to satisfy statutory requirements.