

Report to Cabinet/ Portfolio Holder for Environment

Subject: Parks & Street Care, Commercial Tree Team Fees and Charges 2021/22

Date: 2 March 2021

Author: Head of Environment

Wards Affected

Borough-wide

Purpose

The report details a revised set of Fees and Charges for the Parks and Street Care [PASC] Commercial Tree Team and seeks approval for their introduction from 1st April 2021.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- a) To approve the revised Fees and Charges for 2021/22 as detailed in Appendix 1.**
- b) To agree for the price revisions to be introduced from 1 April 2021**

1 Background

- 1.1 A 3% income inflation increase for discretionary income has been agreed by Cabinet for 2021/22. This was the optimum figure in terms of generating additional income from Fees and Charges to support a balanced budget.
- 1.2 With Portfolio Holder and relevant Corporate Director approval, discretion can be made to apply varying percentage increases or freezes 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 competitors.
- The effect an increase in price would have on the activity, including customer resistance.
- The cost benefit of the service.

1.4 PASC Commercial Tree Team have been reviewed against this criteria and a 3% income inflation increase has been applied which will increase the current Tree Team rate from £126.10 20/21 to £129.88 for 21/22 inclusive of VAT.

2 Proposal

2.1 It is proposed that the PASC Commercial Tree Team Fees and Charges are revised as detailed in Appendix 1.

2.2 Prices for Tree Team works have been set to achieve the 3% discretionary income target in accordance with the Cabinet agreed inflation increase, in consideration of the aforementioned factors.

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.

4.2 The newly proposed PASC Commercial Tree Team Fees and Charges will deliver the approved income budget target required

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Tree team were established under Localism Act 2011, the power to charge stems from the same legislation and are set to ensure full cost recovery for the service.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 The proposed increase in 'Fees and Charges' will not have any adverse equalities implications.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 The proposed increase in 'Fees And Charges' will not impact on the Council's Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability targets.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Revised Fees and Charges 2021/22.

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 None identified.

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 satisfy statutory requirements.