

Key Decision: Yes / No

Fees and Charges Report 2014/2015 (Cabinet Member for Environment)

Report by the Strategic Director (JM)

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report puts forward proposals for a general increase in the fees and charges relating to services managed by the Parks and Foreshore section.
- 1.2 This includes the approach to increase most fees by 2%, with a higher increase being proposed for services offered which are considered to be able to bear an additional % increase.
- 1.3 The only services coming under the Parks and Foreshore section not included in this report are the Foreshore services which come under the Cabinet Member for Regeneration.
- 1.4 All of the proposed charges will apply from 1st April 2014.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 This report puts forward increases to the fees and charges relating to the range of services being provided by the Parks and Foreshore section.
- 2.2 With the exception of the Foreshore's services which come under the Cabinet Member for Regeneration.

3.0 Proposal

- 3.1 The level of fees and charges proposed are set out in a table in Appendix1. The table details the existing charge and the proposals in adjoining columns. The table also indicates the VAT status of the service.
- 3.2 The approach adopted is to propose increases of 2%, rounded up where practical to the nearest £5.00. With some fees and charges, a higher charge has been proposed where the service feels that the service offered will still be used at the higher fee or charge proposed.

- 3.3 This is with the exception of placing a memorial on a children's grave where it is proposed to reduce the cost to 50% of the current full charge. This will have little impact on the services budget, but will ease the financial burden on the bereaved parents at their time of greatest need.

4.0 Legal

- 4.1 Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003 provides a general power to charge for discretionary services, such as leisure and cultural services. Discretionary services are those services the Council has a power to, but is not obliged to, provide.
- 4.2 Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides a local authority with the discretionary power to provide recreational indoor and outdoor facilities as it thinks fit, that includes the power to provide buildings, facilities, equipment, supplies and assistance of any kind, and at a charge it thinks fit.
- 4.3 Section 214 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides the power to be a burial authority. Section 9 of the Cremation Act 1902 provides a burial authority may charge for burning human remains in any crematorium provided by them. The Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 provides the burial authority with management powers in connection with burials and cremations; article 15 provides the burial authority may charge such fees as they think proper in connection with burials in a cemetery; for granting a right to place and maintain a tombstone or other memorial in a cemetery in prescribed circumstances; or for any grant of a right to put an additional inscription on such tombstone or memorial. Article 15 further requires a table showing the fees payable to them to be available for public inspection at all times.
- 4.4 Section 10 of the Allotments Act 1950 states that land let by a Council under the Allotments Acts 1908 to 1931 for use as an allotment shall be let at a rent that a tenant may reasonably be expected to pay for the land if let for such use on the terms on which it is in fact let.
- 4.5 In accordance with the Constitution, The Cabinet Member for the Environment is responsible for events together with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 The proposals recommended will raise additional income in the full financial year above the 2% target set

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 The Cabinet Member is recommended to approve the Fees and Charges detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.

**Local Government Act 1972
Background Papers:**

None

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Schedule of other matters

1.0 Council Priority

1.1 Provide and develop further customer driven cost effective services

2.0 Specific Action Plans

2.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

3.0 Sustainability Issues

3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

4.0 Equality Issues

4.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

5.0 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

5.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

6.0 Human Rights Issues

6.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

7.0 Reputation

7.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

8.0 Consultations

8.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

9.0 Risk Assessment

9.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

10.0 Health & Safety Issues

10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

11.0 Procurement Strategy

11.1 There are no procurement issues identified in this report

12.0 Partnership Working

12.1 Matter considered and no issues identified