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North Devon Council
Brynsworthy Environment Centre
Barnstaple
North Devon EX31 3NP

K. Miles
Chief Executive.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Policy Development Committee will be held in the Barum Room - Brynsworthy on **MONDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY, 2024 at 6.30 pm.**

(NOTE: A location plan for the Brynsworthy Environment Centre is attached to the agenda front pages. For meetings held at Brynsworthy only, you can join the meeting virtually via Microsoft Teams. There are also limited spaces to attend the meeting in person. Please check the Council's website for the latest information regarding the arrangements that are in place and the requirement to book a place 2 working days prior to the meeting. Taking part in meetings (northdevon.gov.uk)

Members of the Policy Development Councillor L. Spear (Chair)
Committee

Councillors Patrinos, Bishop, Bulled, Bushell, Clayton, Hunt, Jones, P Leaver, Turton, Wilson and Worden

AGENDA

7. Review of Fees and Charges 2024-25 (Pages 5 - 6)

Report by the Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 5th February 2024 (attached), and

7(a) Minute Extract of Strategy and Resources on 5th February 2024 (attached).

If you have any enquiries about this agenda, please contact Corporate and Community Services, telephone 01271 388253

2.02.24



North Devon Council protocol on recording/filming at Council meetings

The Council is committed to openness and transparency in its decision-making. Recording is permitted at Council meetings that are open to the public. Members of the public that attend meetings must be aware that these meetings are open to the public and so therefore both individuals and the Council itself have the right to record the meeting. The Council understands that some members of the public attending its meetings may not wish to be filmed. The Chair of the meeting will make sure any request not to be filmed is respected.

The rules that the Council will apply are:

1. The recording must be overt (clearly visible to anyone at the meeting) and must not disrupt proceedings. The Council will put signs up at any meeting where we know recording is taking place.
2. The Chair of the meeting has absolute discretion to stop or suspend recording if, in their opinion, continuing to do so would prejudice proceedings at the meeting or if the person recording is in breach of these rules.
3. We will ask for recording to stop if the meeting goes into 'part B' where the public is excluded for confidentiality reasons. In such a case, the person recording should leave the room ensuring all recording equipment is switched off.
4. Any member of the public has the right not to be filmed. We ensure that agendas for, and signage at, Council meetings make it clear that recording can take place – anyone not wishing to be filmed must advise the Chair at the earliest opportunity to allow them to be directed to an area in the room where they will not be caught on camera. Subject to paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above, audio recordings shall be permitted at all times during public meetings.
5. The recording should not be edited in a way that could lead to misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the proceedings or in a way that ridicules or shows a lack of respect for those in the recording. The Council would expect any recording in breach of these rules to be removed from public view.

Notes for guidance:

Please contact either our Corporate and Community Services team or our Communications team in advance of the meeting you wish to record at so we can make all the necessary arrangements for you on the day.

For more information contact the Corporate and Community Services team on **01271 388253** or email memberservices@northdevon.gov.uk or the Communications Team on **01271 388278**, email communications@northdevon.gov.uk.

North Devon Council offices at Brynsworthy, the full address is:
Brynsworthy Environment Centre (BEC), Roundswell,
Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 3NP.

Sat Nav postcode is EX31 3NS.

At the Roundswell roundabout take the exit onto the B3232, after about ½ mile take the first right, BEC is about ½ a mile on the right.

Drive into the site, visitors parking is in front of the main building on the left hand side.

On arrival at the main entrance, please dial 8253 for Corporate and Community Services.

All public meetings held at Brynsworthy Environment Centre are held on the ground floor and are accessible through the main entrance to the building or via a ramp located adjacent to the main entrance



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NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: 12TH FEBRUARY 2024

MINUTE EXTRACT OF THE STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2024 IN RESPECT OF ITEM 7(A) ON THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

89. REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES 2024-25

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive (circulated previously) regarding the Review of Fees and Charges for services 2024-25.

The Finance Manager highlighted the following:

- The change in fees charged for services provided by the Council was in line with the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- The charges for the provision of services were reviewed annually in the context of policy guidance within the Medium Term Financial Strategy, and the recommended levels of increase to produce a target income level.
- This year the guidance was to increase fees and charges by 5%, although some fees were set by statute and these would be set nationally. Other variations to the 5% increase were set out in sections 4.3 to 4.11 of the report,
- Building Control fees had been raised by an average of 6.7% and rounded to the nearest pound, this was to ensure that revenue income recouped the actual cost of providing the service and were competitive in the sector. Details of this could be seen in Appendix B of the report.
- Land Charges fees had been set to recoup the cost of providing the service, the recommended fees for the land charges service was estimated to recover all the costs and break even, as detailed at Appendix D of the report.
- There were two changes to the Environmental Health fees, as the majority of these were set by statute or set to recover costs. The introduction of a fee for “Film Classification Certificate” and variation to the “Export Health Certificate” fee to ensure the cost of providing the service is fully recovered, as detailed at Appendix E of the report.
- Pannier Market (Venue hire) – Following the recent refurbishment and new facilities within the Pannier Market the Council now offered an enhanced look and feel to the market and had varied the prices to reflect the venue offer, the revised prices were now in line with other similar venues, as detailed in Appendix H (b) Venue of the report.
- Bulky Waste Collections – To increase the fees as follows: as detailed in Appendix I of the report.
 - Up to 2 items £30.00 (30.43% increase)
 - Up to 3 items £38.00 (22.58% increase)
 - Up to 4 items £45.00 (18.42% increase)

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- The proposed increases above brought the Council's charges in line with our neighbouring authorities.
- Garden Waste – Increase in fee of £5, this level of charge was similar to the charges made by other Devon councils and ensured the cost of providing the service was recovered by the income as seen at Appendix J of the report.
- Estates Event Licence fee – The licence for both charity and Commercial events on the Council's land had been set to recover the cost of administering the licence fee, as detailed in Appendix M of the report.
- Estates Contractors Works licence - This was a new fee for 2024-25 and was set to recover the cost of administering the new licence fee, details could be seen in Appendix N of the report.
- Modification of S106 agreements - This was a new fee for 2024-25 and was set to recover the cost of administering the new licence fee, as detailed in Appendix O of the report.
- The net revenue changes from the above charges were estimated to produce £221,000 of additional income, which had been included within the draft 2024/25 revenue budget for consideration.

In response to a question on what the statute increases in charges were, the Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive advised that the Council Tax referendum principle for District Councils was set at 3% or £5, whichever is higher. Other fees such as Planning were set nationally. Licensing fees had to cover the cost of providing the service, breaking even over a 3-year period.

RECOMMENDED:

(a) That Council approved a 5% increase in fees for 2024/25 financial year, for the following services: (some rounded)

- (I) Allotments as detailed at Appendix A
- (II) Trade Waste as detailed at Appendix C
- (III) Cemetery fees as detailed at Appendix F
- (IV) Sports pitches as detailed at Appendix G
- (V) Pannier Market as detailed at Appendix H
- (VI) Pre-application Planning fees as detailed at Appendix K
- (VII) Dog Waste as detailed at Appendix L

That the remaining fees be varied by, the elements outlined in sections 4.3 to 4.11 of the report.