

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **STRATEGY AND RESOURCES**
Date: 1st February 2021
TOPIC: **REVIEW OF CHARGES AND FEES FOR SERVICES 2021/22**
REPORT BY: **HEAD OF RESOURCES**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The following report sets out the framework for the review of charges for the Authority's services for the financial year 2021/22.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Strategy and Resources recommends to Council a 2% increase in fees for 2021/22 financial year, for the following services:

- Allotments – Appendix A
- Cemetery fees – Appendix F
- Sports pitches – Appendix G
- Pannier Market Charges (subject to consultation with the traders committee) – Appendix H
- Bulky Collections – Appendix I

2.2 Strategy and Resources recommends to Council to vary the remaining fees by the elements outlined in section 4.3 to 4.8.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The change in fees charged for services provided by the Council is in line with the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

3.2 Some fees are set by statute and these will be set nationally.

4. REPORT

4.1 The charges for the provision of services are 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.

4.2 This year the guidance was to increase some fees and charges by 2%, although some fees are set by statute and these will be set nationally. Other variations to the 2% increase are set out in 4.3 to 4.8.

4.3 Building Control fees have been raised by an average of 2% and rounded to the nearest pound. In some cases fees have also been adjusted to ensure they are competitive in the sector of the market and also that the income recoups the cost of providing the service - Appendix B

4.4 Trade Waste have increased the main charges by 2%, introduced various "Additional extras" and reviewed how Holiday homes packages are charged. The changes should provide greater flexibility for the customer. – Appendix C.

4.5 Land Charges fees have been set to recoup the cost of providing the service, without changing the current fees the land charges service is still budgeted to recover all the costs and break even. – Appendix D.

4.6 There is one change to the Environment Health fees, as the majority of these are set by statute or set to recover costs. The only change is the insertion of Pavement Licence fees. – Appendix E

4.7 Garden Waste charges have not had an increase for 4 years but it is proposed to increase them by £4, bringing the new 21/22 charge to £40. - Appendix J.

4.8 There is a new set of fees and a matrix detailing the Pre-planning application fees – Appendix K.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The net changes in the charges are expected to result in £90,000 of additional income which has been included within the draft 2021/22 budget.

5.2 The 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 financial years had a zero percent increase, with 2016/17 and 2017/18 having a 2% increase and 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 having a 3% increase.

6. EQUALITY ASSESSMENT

6.1 There are no equality implications anticipated as a result of this report.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

7.1 Strategy and Resources has power to formulate the budgetary framework.

7.2

Article and paragraph	Referred or delegated power?	A key decision?	In the Forward Plan?
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Part 3 Annexe 4	delegated decision making	Yes	Yes
Part 4 Budget Procedure Rules	delegated to formulate Budget	Yes	Yes

8. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

8.1 The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and officers.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None

Author: Tony Rumble (Accountancy Manager) Date: 19th January 2021

Reference: T:\Tony\excel\Fees and Charges\21 22\Fees and charges 22-22.doc