

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

REPORT TO: EXECUTIVE
 Date: 4th February 2019
TOPIC: REVIEW OF CHARGES AND FEES FOR SERVICES 2019/20
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 2019/20.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Executive recommends to Council a 3% increase in fees for 2019/20 financial year, for the following services:

- Allotments – Appendix 1
- Building Control Charges – Appendix 2
- Cemetery fees – Appendix 6
- Pannier Market Charges – Appendix 8
- Bulky Collections – Appendix 9

2.2 Executive recommends to Council to vary the remaining fees by the elements outlined in section 5.3 to 5.8.

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. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

4.1 Executive has power to formulate the budgetary framework

4.2

Article and paragraph	Referred or delegated power?	A key decision?	In the Forward Plan?
Part 3 Annexe 4	Executive delegated decision making	Yes	Yes

5. REPORT

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 This year the guidance was to increase some fees and charges by 3%, although some fees are set by statute and these will be set nationally. Other variations to the 3% increase are set out in 5.3 to 5.8.
- 5.3 The Trade Waste charges have been reviewed and simplified to aid the customer's understanding of our charging structure. Zones 1 and 2 have now been combined with a minimum increase of 5%, with schedule 2 and Recycling charges increasing by 10%. The Head of Operational Services confirms these price increases still leave us commercially competitive. - Appendix 3
- 5.4 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 4
- 5.5 There are minimal changes to the Environment Health fees, as the majority of these are set by statute or set to recover costs. The changes include, amendments to the animal licence fees. With Zoos and Dangerous Wild Animal Licences being under review. – Appendix 5
- 5.6 Single Sports pitch hire has increased by 14.2%. The significant increase is due to current charges for grass pitch hire being relatively cheap. Block hire has also been introduced but kept at the 18-19 prices to encourage customers to lock themselves into a block booking of at least 11 games. - Appendix 7
- 5.7 Although the Pannier Market fees have been recommended to be increased by 3%, it is proposed that the additional £6,000 received is earmarked to be spent on the Pannier Market. – Appendix 8.
- 5.8 Garden Waste charges have not had an increase for 2 years and it is proposed not to increase the fees for the third year running. - Appendix 10.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The net changes in the charges are expected to result in £88,400 of additional income which have been included within the draft 2019/20 budget.
- 7.2 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 having a 3% increase.

7. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

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

8. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

9.1 This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

Executive Members: Councillor Glyn Lane and Councillor Richard Edgell

Author: Tony Rumble (Accountancy Manager) Date: 16th January 2019

Reference: T:\Tony\excel\Fees and Charges\19 20\Fees and charges 19-20.doc