



North Devon Council

Report Date: Strategy and Resources Committee: 3rd February 2025

Topic: Review of Fees and Charges for services 2025/26

Report by: Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive

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 2025/26.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Strategy and Resources recommends to Council a 3% increase in fees for 2025/26 financial year, for the following services: (some rounded)

- Allotments – Appendix A
- Trade Waste – Appendix C
- Sports pitches – Appendix G
- Pannier Market – Appendix H
- Bulky household waste collections – Appendix I
- Pre-application Planning fees – Appendix K
- Dog Waste – Appendix L
- Event licence – Appendix M
- Contractor Licence – Appendix N
- Modification of S106 agreements – Appendix O

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 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 4.3 to 4.8.

4.3. Building Control fees have been raised by an average of 13.42% and rounded to the nearest pound, this is to ensure the revenue income recoups

the actual cost of providing the service, are competitive in the sector and provides the Partnership with protection against additional temporary staffing costs that are likely to be experienced during the year. – Appendix B.

4.4. Land Charges fees have been set to recoup the cost of providing the service, the recommended fees for the land charges service is estimated to recover all the costs and break even. – Appendix D.

4.5. The majority of these are set by statute or set to recover costs. A minor exception to this is that there is no planned increases on charges for “Health and Food Certificates”. – Appendix E.

4.6. Cemeteries – To increase the fees by 6%. (3% inflationary uplift, plus an additional 3%). This is to enable the fees to be brought closer in line with comparative figures around the County. – Appendix F.

4.7. Garden Waste – To keep the £60 fee unchanged, due to the £5 increases in the previous 2 financial years (2023/24 and 2024/25). - Appendix J.

4.8. Street Name Plates – Simplification of the “charging structure”, including an uplift to reflect no inflationary increases in the previous 7 years. The fees have now been set to recoup the cost of providing the service. – Appendix P.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1. The net revenue changes from the above charges are estimated to produce £25,000 of additional income, which has been included within the draft 2025/26 revenue budget for consideration, also on this agenda.

6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1. There are no equality implications anticipated as a result of this report. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

7.1 There are not any environmental implications anticipated as a result of this report, the purpose of this report is to set the budgeted fee income increase for 2025-26.

8. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

8.1 The increases in fees included in the report contribute to the on-going financial security of the Council by increasing the revenue budget. Which also contributes to the delivery of the Council’s corporate objectives.

9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

9.1. Save as provided in paragraph 9.2 below, the decision in respect of the recommendations in this report can be made by this Committee pursuant to delegated powers provided in paragraph 1 of Annexe 1 to Part 3 of the Constitution.



9.2. As noted in the report, the power to decide on one or more of the recommendations in this report is reserved to Council pursuant to Article 4.5 of the Constitution and as such the recommendation must be referred to Council to ratify.

10. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

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

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1. None.

12. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

12.1. The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers: Author Tony Rumble, Finance Manager; Date 23rd January 2025.