

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **STRATEGY AND RESOURCES**
Date: 3rd February 2020
TOPIC: **REVIEW OF CHARGES AND FEES FOR SERVICES 2020/21**
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 2020/21.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Strategy and Resources recommends to Council a 3% increase in fees for 2020/21 financial year, for the following services:

- Allotments – Appendix A
- Trade Waste – Appendix C
- 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 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 set to recoup the cost of providing the services. It was recommended by the Joint Building Control partnership to keep the fees at the 2019/20 levels. – Appendix B.

4.4 Trade Waste have reviewed the Holiday homes packages and removed packages 1 and 3, replacing the weekly collections with fortnightly collections for holiday homes. – 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 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 Dangerous Wild Animals, Zoo and Residential caravan site licence fees. – Appendix E

4.7 Although the Pannier Market fees have been recommended to be increased by 3%, it is proposed that the additional £5,000 received is earmarked to be spent on the Pannier Market. – Appendix H.

4.8 Garden Waste charges have not had an increase for 3 years and it is proposed not to increase the fees for the fourth year running. - Appendix J.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The net changes in the charges are expected to result in £28,250 of additional income which have been included within the draft 2020/21 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 and 2019/20 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?

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: 13th January 2020

Reference: T:\Tony\excel\Fees and Charges\20 21\Fees and charges 20-21.doc