



REPORT of DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

to
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
28 JANUARY 2021

DISCRETIONARY FEES AND CHARGES 2021 / 22

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to review the fees and charges set at the discretion of the Council that generate greater than £2,000.
- 1.2 Fees and Charges that generate less than £2,000 are reviewed and set by the Director of Resources under delegated powers.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Council:

- (i) That the detailed Fees and Charges for 2021 / 22 as set out in **APPENDIX A** be agreed, subject to recommendation (ii).
- (ii) That the options for wharfage fees outlined in section 4 of this report are considered and a fee agreed to be put forward to the Council.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The proposed fees and charges for 2020 / 21 are set out in **APPENDIX A** and are based on the policy decisions recently updated and agreed by this Committee on 19 November 2020.
- 3.2 The 2020 / 21 and 2021 / 22 budgets for income generated from these fees and charges are detailed in the following table;

Area of Income	2020/21 Budget £'000	2020/21 Forecast £'000	Variance £'000	2021/22 Budget £'000
Environmental Protection	7	7	0	7
Food Safety and Hygiene	2	1	-1	2
Taxis and Private Hire licencing	35	29	-6	35
Premises Licencing	52	50	-2	53
Animal Licencing	14	14	0	14
Gambling licencing	3	3	0	3

Area of Income	2020/21 Budget £'000	2020/21 Forecast £'000	Variance £'000	2021/22 Budget £'000
Pest Control	33	25	-8	33
Green Waste Bin Service	535	583	48	672
Funfairs and Circuses	77	15	-62	77
River Moorings	19	19	0	19
River Wharfage	29	32	3	32
Land Charges	124	95	-29	124
Pre-Application Advice	44	30	-14	44
Building Control	144	144	0	152
Cemeteries	138	138	0	138
Town Centre Car Parks	1,236	821	-415	1236
Parks sports pitches	8	8	0	8
Beach Huts	36	0	-36	36
Splash Park	110	0	-110	110
	2,646	2,014	-632	2,795

- 3.3 The table shows the loss of income from fees and charges-expected to be down on budget by £632,000 in 2020 / 21. This is due to reduced activity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic rather than the fees and charges rates themselves.
- 3.4 Although the table is showing no change in income from year to year for cemeteries income, many new charges are being introduced in place of old ones, as listed in **APPENDIX A**.
- 3.5 The total income in the table excludes those generated from statutory fees and charges.
- 3.6 To assist in identifying and understand the changes, a summary of these is available at **APPENDIX B**.

4. WHARFAGE FEES

- 4.1 Following a meeting of the Finance Working Group on 7 January 2021, proposed changes to the wharfage fees were put forward. Suggested options were to keep the charges the same, reduce them by 25% and reduce them by 50%.
- 4.2 The charges these relate to and financial implications of the reductions are shown below. The implications are based on 6 barges paying annual fees.

	Current Fee £	25% Lower £	50% Lower £
Annual fees: Available to Fully Rigged Thames Sailing barges operators only	3,575.00	2,681.25	1,787.50
Monthly fees: Available to Fully Rigged Thames Sailing barges operators only	328.00	246.00	164.00
Annual Income based on 6 barges paying annual fees	21,450.00	16,087.50	10,725.00

	Current Fee £	25% Lower £	50% Lower £
Annual Income Lost from Reductions	0	-5,362.50	-10,725.00
<i>Daily Income Lost from Reductions</i>		<i>14.69</i>	<i>29.38</i>

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The Discretionary Fees and Charges be updated in accordance with the agreed policies.

6. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES

6.1 The Discretionary Fees and Charges are a vital element of the overall sources of funding to the Council to deliver its services and achieve its goals.

6.2 The fees and charges are linked to the to all three Strategic Themes – Place, Community and Prosperity.

7. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – This has been considered when setting fees and charges policy.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – The actual income generated from fees and charges is subject to fluctuation due to changes in demand. This risk is managed by factoring potential losses in the calculation of the minimum general fund balance used in the budget setting process.
- (iv) **Impact on resources (financial)** – Fees and charges are one of the three major sources of funding for the Council; the other two being Council Tax and retained Business Rates. The impact of the changes to fees and charges have been incorporated into the 2021 / 22 budget proposals.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – Sustainability has been considered, as far as possible when setting Fees and Charges policies.

Background Papers: 2021 / 22 Fees and Charges Policies Report to the Strategy and Resources Committee, 19 November 2020.

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