



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES**

to
**STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
15 SEPTEMBER 2022**

FEES AND CHARGES POLICY 2023 / 24

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to review the fees and charges policies that have been put forward by officers: prior to the approval of the 2023 / 24 budget and updated Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 1.2 The detailed schedule of Fees and Charges will be reviewed based on the policy decisions and the Committee will recommend the actual 2023 / 24 fees and charges to Council during the next cycle of meetings. The 2023 / 24 income budgets will be based on the recommended policy.

2. RECOMMENDATION

To the Council:

That the 2023 / 24 fees and charges policies at **APPENDIX A** be approved.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

3.1 Fees and Charges

- 3.1.1 Fees and charges set by the Council are one area where the Council may have the ability to generate increased resources, however each area is subject to different constraints. In looking at these policies, the following factors need to be considered:
 - Corporate and service objectives / priorities;
 - Seeking to make services self-financing, where there is scope to do so;
 - The level of charges levied by commercial competitors and other local authorities;
 - The introduction of new charges, where appropriate;
 - Whether concessions in fees and charges for specific users of the service(s) would apply or, where they already apply, should they continue to apply.

3.2 Current Position

- 3.2.1 The position with each policy is set out in **APPENDIX A** including any new or amended proposed policies, or any proposed concessions.

3.3 Summary of proposed changes to Fees and Charge Policy

River Wharfage	Concessions to be phased out over three financial years.
Off-street car parking – Maldon Town	Concessions to be reduced to remove free parking on bank holidays.
Car Parking – events	Suspend normal parking and charge specific parking rates for events.
Car Parking – Promenade Park	Increase to maximum cost recovery.
Green Bin Waste Collection	Amend to ensure these are charged at a market rate but also ensure it is a minimum of cost recovery.
Chargeable street cleaning	Concessions to be delegated to Director of Service Delivery.
Court Costs	Increase to full cost recovery or maximum magistrate courts allow.
Pest control	Amend to reflect market rates as well as cost recovery.
Pre-Application for Tree Preservation Order advise	Simplify to reflect full cost recovery.

3.3.1 No new Fees and Charges policies have been added.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The fees and charges policy will inform the setting of the 2022 / 23 fees and charges, which will be brought to a subsequent Committee.

5. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES

5.1 The Strategic and Financial Planning process contributes towards our Corporate Goal “Delivering good quality, cost effective and valuable services”.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – The fees and charges are for services and therefore impact on service users.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – The implementation of the budget setting process is designed to minimise the risk of not having a robust Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
- (iv) **Impact on resources (financial)** – Fees and Charges set by the Council are a key financial resource. The Council needs to consider additional income generation as part of the set of actions to balance its annual and future revenue budget.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – As well as financial factors, availability of staff has been considered for each of the policies in terms of implementation, monitoring and enforcement.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

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