

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer (Introduced by Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets))	Cabinet	18th January 2023

Is this report confidential?	No
------------------------------	----

Is this decision key?	Yes
-----------------------	-----

Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	Significant impact on 2 or more council wards
--	--

2023/24 Fees and Charges

Purpose of the Report

1. This report sets out the current position around fees and charges and proposals for 2023/24.

Recommendations to Cabinet

2. To note the current levels of budgeted fees and charges and issues specific to these.
3. To agree an uplift (inflationary or set amount) or to freeze those fees and charges detailed in Appendix 1 – Table 3 'Fees & Charges which are raised by inflation' for the 2023/24 financial year.
4. To approve that the full list of fees and charges is uploaded to the Council website.

Executive summary

5. This report sets out the key fees and charges budgets and the income generated from each.

Reasons for Recommendations

6. To ensure that fees and charges are set at appropriate levels and are publicly available

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

6. No other options considered as we are required to review fees & charges every year.

Corporate priorities

7. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

Background to the report

8. The Council generates significant income from various fees and charges. The majority of these charges are set either nationally (Table 1) or on an individual basis (Table 4). Council agreed to freeze these charges in 22/23 and is proposing once again to freeze them into 23/24.
9. For those detailed in Table 3 (those that have generally been increased by a given or fixed amount/set percentage). Council agree to freeze the charges in 2022/23 and is proposing once again to freeze them in 2023/24.

Fees and Charges Position

10. **Appendix 1** details the key fees and charges budgets across a number of categories. It should be noted however, that the tables are not exhaustive or exclusive (i.e. some fees and charges fall into more than one category) but they give an indication of the core fees involved.
11. **Table 1** provides details of those charges over which the Council has no control in setting the amount that can be charged. The largest of these relates to planning application fees. Whilst the fee is not within local control, it is the volume of the applications which can significantly impact upon this budget and the income generated, as it can vary significantly depending on the size and number of applications.
12. **Table 2** illustrates the specific fees and charges that generate an income of greater than £50k. The largest of these relate to the Council's investment sites. Outside of these charges the biggest income streams relate to garden waste, trade waste and vehicle maintenance.
13. **Table 3** shows the fees and charges that have generally been increased by a given percentage, or through an inflationary uplift, as opposed to being subject to a full, formal review. The proposal is to freeze these fees and charges for 2023/24.
14. **Table 4** outlines those charges that can generate more significant amounts of income. An update on some of these charges is below:
 - Other Investment Rentals and Leases are negotiated on a case by case basis to ensure the maximum financial benefit to the council.
 - Car Parking fees - a review of this area was undertaken in 2020/21 and implemented in 2021/22.

- Building control fees are regularly reviewed and increased in line with national guidelines, to ensure the fees are covering all relevant costs.
- Market Rents - generally considered separately to this annual review and have been increased on an ad hoc basis as individual traders have changed.
- Garden Waste collection – this fee has remained fixed for a number of years. Rising demand has seen an increase in income overall.
- Trade waste was reviewed and increased in 2021/22

Fees and Charges Proposals

15. Having reviewed those categories of fees and charges that have generally in the past increased by a given percentage, or through an inflationary uplift it is not proposed to make any changes at this time given the financial impact of the cost of living crisis and recovery from the pandemic for our residents and business.

Climate change and air quality

16. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

Equality and diversity

17. None

Risk

18. N/A

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

19. The financial implications relating to the review of fees and charges for 2023/24 are outlined within the report and the supporting appendices.

20. Based on the published rates for October 2022, RPI was 14.2% and CPI stood at 9.6%. Freezing the level of fees and charges for those categories detailed in Table 3 of Appendix 1 (i.e. those that have generally been increased by a given percentage or an inflationary uplift in the past), based on the rate of CPI noted above and the forecast level of income for 2022/23, the council would forego the potential to generate a further £11k of income in 2023/24.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

21. The Monitoring Officer has no concerns with the proposed way forward outlined in this report. In terms of the fees referred to the council has a discretion over what level the fees should be set at but as ever it must act in a reasonable fashion.

Background documents

22. There are no background papers to this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Fees and Charges Tables

Appendix 2 - Detailed Fees and Charges List

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Lorraine Ritchie (Management Accountant) Hema Chevli (Senior Management Accountant)	Lorraine.Ritchie@southribble.gov.uk Hemangini.Chevli@chorley.gov.uk, neil.halton@southribble.gov.uk		14/12/22