

APPENDIX N

REPORT TO	ON
COUNCIL	Wednesday 24 th February 2021

TITLE	PORTFOLIO	REPORT OF
Fees and Charges 2021/22	Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets)	Deputy Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Is this report confidential?	No
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PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- At 25th November 2020 Council a Fees and Charges Policy was introduced whereby charges are to be reviewed annually and, where possible, charges are increased if there is a gap between the cost of delivering the service and the income collected.
- An examination of some of the council's existing fees and charges has been undertaken and this report aims to bring together an overall position.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Council notes, reviews and comments on the contents of this report.
- Council approves the annual inflationary increases to certain charges, in line with usual practice in recent years, which are summarised in Table 2.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Most services have reviewed their Fees and Charges on a fairly recent basis. Of those services not recently reviewed a benchmarking exercise has been undertaken to give an understanding of where there is divergence from other Local Authorities. The main area this identified was Bulky Waste Collection as requiring review.

CORPORATE OUTCOMES

6. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: *(tick all those applicable)*:

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

FEES AND CHARGES

7. An exercise was undertaken to bring together a list of all fees and charges made by the council. As this consists of a large number of individual items, they have been categorised into broader categories for the purposes of this report.
8. It is proposed that most fees and charges, as listed in table 1 on a separate page further down this report, are not adjusted for 2021/22. Some services have been reviewed recently and are not in need of an update. Others were due to be reviewed in 2020/21 but the reviews have been delayed due to other work pressures.
9. For information, the table gives indicative figures using fixed percentages to show what the potential effects might be on income budgets if charges were increased in future.
10. Table 2, immediately below Table 1, shows the fees and charges that have had inflationary increases of 0.70% applied in 2021/22, which is following usual practice in recent years.

Garden waste subscriptions

11. The annual charge for Garden Waste collection was reduced with effect from 1st April 2020 from £30 to £25 per bin. The table below shows that South Ribble's charge is lower than all but one of the other councils in Lancashire, with Ribble Valley not applying any charge.

Council	Charge £
District Councils	
Burnley	30
Chorley	30
Fylde	30
Hyndburn	30
Lancaster	40
Pendle	33
Preston	35
Ribble Valley	0
Rosendale	35
South Ribble	25
West Lancs	30
Wyre	35
Unitary Councils	
Blackburn with Darwen	30
Blackpool	40

Bulky waste collections

12. The charge for bulky waste collections has not been reviewed many years. The charges will be reviewed in 2021/22. The table below shows how South Ribble's charge compares to neighbouring councils.

Council	Charge £
Chorley	40.00
Preston	20.50
South Ribble	16.00
West Lancs	13.00

13. A full list of all fees and charges will be uploaded to the Council's website.

Table 1 – Fees and Charges with No Changes

Fee	Notes	Statutory Y-N	Last Review	Expected Review	21/22 Income Budget £	Indicative Increases		
						1.0%	2.0%	3.0%
Building Control	In agreement with Chorley and Preston City Councils, fees were set in August 2017 with an average increase of 6%. A review was intended to be done in 2020/21 but has delayed.	N	2017-18	2020-21	(190,820)	(1,908)	(3,816)	(5,725)
Conference and Business Centre	Prices were increased in 2020/21 and will remain unchanged in 2021/22.	N	2020-21	2022-23	(36,000)	(360)	(720)	(1,080)
Garden Waste Subscription	Garden waste charges were reduced from £30 to £25 per year with effect from 1st April 2020.	N	2020-21	2022-23	(682,625)	(6,826)	(13,653)	(20,479)
GIS Street Naming	A review is planned for 2021/22.	N	More than 5 years ago	2021-22	(25,000)	(250)	(500)	(750)
Land Charges	The Infrastructure Act 2015 provides for the transfer of responsibility for Local Land Charges from local authorities to Land Registry. There has been no update as to when this transfer will be completed. A review of the existing fees was intended to be done in 2020/21 but has been delayed.	N	2015-16	2020-21	(80,000)	(800)	(1,600)	(2,400)
Legal	A review is planned for 2021/22.	N	2015-16	2021-22	(15,000)	(150)	(300)	(450)
Licensing	There are various aspects to Licensing fees and charges, some statutory and some discretionary. A review is planned for 2021/22.	Mixture	2018-19	2021-22	(234,931)	(2,349)	(4,699)	(7,048)

Fee	Notes	Statutory Y-N	Last Review	Expected Review	21/22 Income Budget £	Indicative Increases		
						1.0%	2.0%	3.0%
Parking	Car parking fees for 2021/22 were approved at Council November 2020.	N	2020-21	2022-23	(137,600)	(1,376)	(2,752)	(4,128)
Planning Applications	Planning fees are set nationally.	Y	N/A	N/A	(505,000)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Planning Pre-Applications	Planning Pre-App advice fees were introduced from 1st August 2018.	N	2018-19	2021-22	(40,000)	(400)	(800)	(1,200)
Summons Charges	Current charges for summons were last reviewed in 2018-19 in line with changes in Government legislation.	N	2018-19	2021-22	(228,000)	(2,280)	(4,560)	(6,840)
Waste & Recycling	Bulky waste charges have not been reviewed for many years.	N	More than 5 years ago	2021-22	(40,000)	(400)	(800)	(1,200)
					(2,214,976)	(17,100)	(34,200)	(51,299)

Table 2 – Fees and Charges with Inflationary Increases Applied

Fee	Background	21/22 Income Budget £	Inflationary Increase of 0.7%
Sports Pitches	Sports pitch hire Fees usually increased annually in line with CPI.	(17,692)	(124)
Public Health	Public Health Fees are usually increased annually in line with CPI.	(68,820)	(482)
Planning Searches	Planning search fees usually increased annually in line with CPI	(8,520)	(60)