

Report to: **Joint Overview and Scrutiny Panel and Development Management Committee**

Date: **24 January 2019**

Title: **Review of Fees and Charges for 2019/20**

Portfolio Area: **Support Services – Cllr S Wright**

Wards Affected: **All**

Relevant Scrutiny Committee: **N/A**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

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RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee RESOLVES that the Executive RECOMMEND to Council that:

- 1) it approves the proposed fees and charges set out for Parks, Open Spaces and Outdoor Sports in Appendix A.**
- 2) it approves the proposed Environmental Health charges in Appendix B.**
- 3) it approves the proposed fees and charges set out for Development Management in Appendix C.**
- 4) delegated authority is given to the Group Manager for Commercial Services in consultation with the Portfolio holder, to set the Lower Ferry fees to take account of market conditions including competitor charges.**
- 5) there are no changes to the car park charges for 2019/20, except for where this has been agreed as an alternative to the implementation of Pay on Entry at public toilets, and a report will be presented to the Executive in this respect in**

due course.

6) delegated authority is given to the Group Manager for Commercial Services in consultation with the Portfolio holder, to set the Commercial Waste charges, once all the price modelling factors are known.

7) it approves the changes to Boat Storage Charges set out in paragraph 3.7.

1. Executive summary

1.1 This report sets out proposals for any changes to fees and charges for all services for 2019/20.

2. Background

2.1 The Council has the power to levy fees and charges for various services and functions it undertakes. Some of these fees are set by statute while for others the Council can make "reasonable" charges for the services it provides. The undertaking of regular reviews of charges allows, where possible, for the Council to recover the cost of officers' time in providing the service.

3. Proposals for Charges 2019/20

3.1 Parks, Open Spaces, Outdoor Sport and Recreation

For most charges, the proposal is to increase fees by around 3-4% to reflect inflation and the rising costs to the Council of providing these services as shown in Appendix A. This is unlikely to generate significant additional income for 2019/20.

3.2 Environmental Health Charges

Appendix B sets out proposals for Environmental Health Charges for 2019/20.

Environmental Health charges were reviewed for 2016/17 to ensure that the Council charges were consistent across SHDC and WDBC and complied with the legislation in terms of the maximum charge being full cost recovery. The charges were changed to reflect this requirement and the review of charges for 2019/20 reflects the full cost recovery concept and the proposal is to increase most charges by 3% to reflect inflation and the additional cost to the Council of providing these services.

The setting of fees for the issuing of licences for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles, as well as Private Hire operators is governed by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, this requires that

where the fee set is proposed to be greater than £25 the Council must advertise these changes for a period of 28 days, and publish a notice in the local newspaper. Due to the cost of the advertisement of fees it is not economically beneficial to the local authority to increase these fees by inflation each year. Fees for these licences will be reviewed on a 3 yearly basis to ensure that the Council is not subsidising the delivery of the service substantially.

In terms of additional income, the changes to existing Environmental Health and Licensing charges shouldn't be significant since the increases are merely incremental.

The new charge for ECO declaration certification is an administrative charge for the processing of applications, this is in line with other Councils who charge for the Council's administrative costs of the scheme. The estimated additional income from the proposed new fee is £10,000 and this has already been built into the Executive 2019/20 Budget Report presented on 13 December 2018.

3.3 Lower Ferry, Dartmouth

It is requested that responsibility for setting Lower Ferry charges is delegated to Group Manager for Commercial Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder. This will provide assurance that the charges are set to reflect the competitive environment in which the ferry operates.

3.4 Car Parking

It is recommended that car parking charges remain static for the financial year 2019/20. This is because increases have been implemented for the last two financial years. The exception to this will be where increased charges have been agreed as an alternative to the implementation of Pay on Entry at public toilets. Following negotiations with Town and Parish Councils, revised charges will be presented to the Executive in due course.

3.5 Commercial Waste Charges

The pricing model for Commercial Waste charges requires consideration of budget performance, disposal charges and market factors, but it is considered too early in the financial year for this review to be undertaken. Given the timing of these factors, it is requested that the Group Manager for Commercial Services is given delegated authority in consultation with the Portfolio Holder. Discussions to increase income will be considered through the new partnership contract, which commences in April 2019.

3.6 Planning

A schedule of the proposed Development Management fees are included at Appendix C. Based on the existing demand for these services the estimated additional income from the proposed fee structure is £9,000 and this has

already been built into the Executive 2019/20 Budget Report presented on 13 December 2018.

3.7 Boat Storage Charges

Boat storage charges had stayed the same since the Harbour Authority took over the running of the lifting operations in 2010, last year saw the first increase of the fees. Boat storage charges are reviewed annually and set in line with boat yards offering similar facilities for winter storage, once our lifting costs have been allowed for. The proposed fees for 2019/20 are summarised in the table below:

Batson Boat Park	2018/19 Current Fee	2019/20 Proposed Fee
Daily Rate	£8.00	£10.00
Daily Rate – Large Space	£12.00	£15.00
Weekly Rate	£59.40	£60.00
Weekly Rate – Large Space	£89.10	£90.00
Trailer (under 4.5m) per day	£5.30	£6.00
Trailer (over 4.5m) per day	£6.40	£8.00
Trailer (under 4.5m) per week	£26.00	£28.00
Trailer (over 4.5m) per week	£32.30	£35.00
Time Zone/Area 1 (Oct to end Mar)	£55.00	£57.00
Time Zone/Area 2 (Oct to end Apr)	£78.50	£82.00
Weekly charge (only avail Dec-Feb)	£3.30/m	£3.50/m
Lift out	£14.00/m	£14.50/m
Launch	£14.00/m	£14.50/m
Environmental levy for filtering of scrubbing water	£1.30/m	£1.50/m
Yacht cradle hire (9m and over) Zone 1 and 2	£250.00	£260.00
Or yacht cradle hire per month	£49.00/month	£50.00/month
Powerboat props hire Zone 1 and 2	£190.00	£200.00
Or powerboat props per month	£39.00/month	£40.00/month

3.8 Public Conveniences Pay on Entry

On the 22nd of November 2018 the Executive Committee considered a report entitled Public Toilet Review. This report included pay on entry proposals and other local arrangements. Annual savings from the proposals were included in the report and these have already been built into the Medium Term Financial Plan, therefore there is no further income that needs to be included separately in this report.

3.9 Market Pitches

Due to the imminent implementation of Pay on Entry at public toilets, which are used by market traders, it is recommended that pitch fees remain static for the next financial year in order to reflect this and acknowledge the

impact that this step will have on market traders. Keeping fees static will recompense traders for this financial pressure.

4. Proposed Way Forward

The level of fees and charges will continue to be monitored during the year.

5. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	The Council has the power to introduce, maintain and increase charges under S.19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 or as set out in specific pieces of relevant legislation.
Financial	Y	The estimated additional income that could be generated from the review of fees and charges for 2019/20 if the recommendations are agreed is £22,000. This excludes any additional income from commercial waste and the Lower Ferry, Dartmouth and is made up as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Environmental Health income of £10,000 (section 3.2). This has already been built into the Executive 2019/20 Budget Report presented on 13 December 2018. • Additional planning income of £9,000 (section 3.6). This has already been built into the Executive 2019/20 Budget Report presented on 13 December 2018. • Additional income from boat storage charges of £3,000 (section 3.7).
Risk	Y	Achieving anticipated income targets in the current financial climate – regular monitoring of corporate income streams and revenue budgets ensures early identification of variances.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity	Y	Charging helps to support the provision of a wide range of public facilities available to all ages and all abilities.
Safeguarding	Y	Charging assists in supporting the running and management of a range of facilities in appropriate locations for local communities.
Community	Y	Charging helps to maintain the range of facilities.

Safety, Crime and Disorder		
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	N	
Other implications	N	None directly arising from this report.

Supporting Information:

Appendix A – 2019/20 Proposed Charges for Outdoor Recreation
Appendix B – 2019/20 Proposed Charges for Environmental Health
Appendix C – 2019/20 Proposed Charges for Development Management.

Background Papers:

Budget Proposals Report for 2019/20– Executive 13 December 2018