

2017-18 FEES AND CHARGES

Council	1 December 2016
Report Author	Tim Willis, Director of Corporate Resources
Portfolio Holder	Cllr John Townend, Portfolio Holder (Financial Services & Estates)
Status	For Recommendation
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	<i>Budget and Policy Framework</i>
Ward:	All

Executive Summary:

A review of Fees and Charges has now been completed as part of the budget process. They are proposed to increase by a composite 5.4% on average, generating additional income of £490K in 2017/18; this excludes items such as Selective Licensing, On Street Parking and changes agreed as part of 2016-2017 ongoing savings.

Recommendation(s):

1. That Council approve the Fees and Charges listed in **Annex 1**.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money	The financial implications have been reflected within the body of the report. However, were members to decide to reject any of the proposals, then additional savings of the same value would be required to deliver a balanced budget.
Legal	<p>Section 151 of the 1972 Local Government Act requires a suitably qualified named officer to keep control of the Council's finances. For this Council, it is the Director of Corporate Resources (S151 Officer), and this report is helping to carry out that function.</p> <p>Local authorities have a variety of powers to charge for specific statutory services as set out in section 42 The Local Government Act 2003.</p> <p>The power to charge for discretionary services is not available to local authorities if there is a statutory duty to provide the service or if there is a specific power to charge for it or if there is a prohibition on charging.</p> <p>The Localism Act 2011 provides local authorities with a general power of competence that confers on them the power to charge for services but again subject to conditions/limitations similar to those noted above.</p> <p>Any decision made by the council must give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty section 149 the Equality Act 2010.</p>

Corporate	Corporate priorities can only be delivered with robust finances and this report gives Members the opportunity to review the Council's proposed Fees and Charges for 2017-18, as part of the budget process.								
Equalities Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty	<p>Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</p> <p>Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="432 741 1401 1111"> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="432 741 1401 808">Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="432 808 1310 909">Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,</td> <td data-bbox="1310 808 1401 909"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="432 909 1310 1010">Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it</td> <td data-bbox="1310 909 1401 1010">✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="432 1010 1310 1111">Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</td> <td data-bbox="1310 1010 1401 1111">✓</td> </tr> </table> <p>aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.</p> <p>Fees and charges where the responsible manager deems that the Public Sector Equality Duty has been engaged, a Customer Impact Assessment has been completed.</p>	Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.		Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,		Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it	✓	Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	✓
Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.									
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,									
Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it	✓								
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	✓								

CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant)✓	
A clean and welcoming Environment	✓
Promoting inward investment and job creation	✓
Supporting neighbourhoods	✓

CORPORATE VALUES (tick those relevant)✓	
Delivering value for money	✓
Supporting the Workforce	
Promoting open communications	

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 This report seeks Council approval to set fees and charges for 2017-18. Fees and Charges have historically been agreed early in the budget cycle to build into individual service estimates. This covering report summarises the main points, with the detail being provided in the annexes.
- 1.2 A rigorous review of all the Council's fees and charges was undertaken by the service managers, using techniques such as benchmarking and other in-depth reviews as per the Fees and Charges policy.
- 1.3 Managers completed Customer Impact Assessments as per the requirement of the PSED and hence informed their design of the service and price.

2. The Financial Implications

- 2.1 **Annex 1** to this report sets out the proposed level of Fees and Charges for 2017-18 in respect of services provided by the Council. As a result of reviewing all the Council's fees and charges, additional income of £490K is anticipated in 2017-18. **Table 1** compares 2016/17 to the proposed 2017/18 Fees and Charges. The proposals represent a composite average price increase of 5.4% and an increase in income of 7.2%. Some charges have remained at 2016-17 prices; others have increased to reflect parity with other authorities and some to cover cost of providing the service.

Table 1			
2016/17 Total Income Increase	2017/18 Total Income Increase	2017/18 % Income Change	2017/18 % Average Price Change
£345,900	£518,610	7.2%	5.4%
Note: 2016-17 figure is adjusted for Green Waste and Refuse to compare with 2017-18.			

- 2.2 The Major Changes proposed to Fees and Charges 2017-18 can be summarised in **Table 2** overleaf:

Table 2				
2017-18 Fees & Charges		Major Changes		
Ref	Type of Fees & Charges	New Fees	Deleted Fees	Combined Fees
4.	Crematorium	✓	✓	☐
5.	Cemeteries	✓	☐	☐
8.	Refuse Bins	✓	☐	✓
13.	Ramsgate Harbour/Port	✓	☐	☐
18.	Housing HRA	☐	✓	☐
19.	HMO/Selective Licensing	✓	✓	☐
14.	Env Services - Pollution	✓	✓	☐
21.	Building Control	✓	☐	☐
24.	Sport and Leisure	☐	✓	☐
26.	Cultural & Outside Events	☐	☐	✓
25.	Foreshore Events	☐	✓	☐
27.	External Printing	✓	☐	☐

Note: A tick shows that there has been a change. A blank means no change.

3. Options

- 3.1 Council rejects some increases in the fees and charges, in which case an alternative funding source will need to be identified.
- 3.2 That Council approves the Fees and Charges.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 This report has been written in advance of its consideration by both Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Panel. On the assumption that Council approves the fees and charges, the additional income generated will be reflected in the 2017-18 budget report to Council in February 2017.

Contact Officer:	Helen Efemini, Interim Project Accountant Ex 7241
Reporting to:	Matthew Sanham , Financial Services Manager

Annex List

Annex 1	Fees and Charges Schedule 2017-18
----------------	--

Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
	<i>n/a</i>

Corporate Consultation

Finance	Peter Timmins, interim Head of Finance
Legal	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance