2020-21 FEES AND CHARGES

Council	**5 December 2019**
Report Author	**Tim Willis, Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer**
Portfolio Holder	**Cllr Robert Yates, Cabinet Member for Financial Services & Estates**
Status	**For Decision**
Classification:	**Unrestricted**
Key Decision	**Budget and Policy Framework**
Ward:	**All**

Executive Summary:

A review of fees and charges has now been completed as part of the budget build. The proposed fees and charges are expected to generate additional income of around £208K, which represents an increase of 2.5%. This excludes items such as Selective Licensing, On Street Parking and specific growth items covered elsewhere in the budget.

Recommendation(s):

1. That Council consider and approve the fees and charges as 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	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 Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer), and this report is helping to carry out that function. Local authorities have a variety of powers to charge for specific statutory services as set out in section 42 of the Local Government Act 2003. 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. 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.

	Any decision made by the council must give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.
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 2019-20 as part of the budget process.
Equalities Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty	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. Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership. 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. [✓] The Equality Act 2010 (the "Act") came into force on 1 October 2010 and brings together over 116 separate pieces of legislation in order to create a framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all. The Equality and Human Rights Commission recognises that with major reductions in public spending, local government has to make difficult and often unpopular decisions regarding funding and service provision. Thanet District Council has statutory public sector equality duties concerned with eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations on the basis of protected characteristics such as gender, race, disability or age. These duties do not prevent the council reducing services or charging where necessary - provided that decisions are taken in accordance with the Act. An Equality Impact Assessment ("EIA") is not a legal requirement in England, but it is an established and credible tool for demonstrating due regard to the public sector equality duty, which is required by law. Thanet District Council, taking its obligations as seriously as it does, had the Policy Owner for each proposed fee and charge, complete an EIA. An analysis of the impacts fees and charges might have to the statutory equality duties encouraged Thanet District Council to take a proportionate

	approach to fees and charges. EIAs tailored the necessary mitigations and exceptions, for example. The council is satisfied that, in all the circumstances, the Schedule of 2019-20 fees and charges, those subject to an EIA, are lawful for the purposes of the public sector equality duties in the Equality Act 2010. The council recognises that EIAs are not an end in themselves. They are, of course, a way of showing that due regard has been paid to the general duties; but the council will continue, all-the-time, engaging with the equality considerations, accepting comments and opinions from stakeholders and maintain a positive relationship with the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant)✓	
Growth	✓
Environment	✓
Communities	✓

1. Introduction and Background

1.1. This report seeks Council approval to set the fees and charges for 2020-21. Fees and charges have historically been agreed early in the budget cycle so that they can be built into individual service estimates. This covering report summarises the main points, with the details being provided in Annex 1.

1.2. A rigorous examination of all the council's fees and charges was undertaken by the service managers, using techniques such as benchmarking and other in-depth reviews.

1.3. Service managers also completed Equality Impact Assessments as per the requirement of the Public Sector Equality Duty and hence informed their design of the service and price.

1.4. Changes to bring to Members' attention:

1.4.1. Parking Off Street - Where there are residents only voucher schemes, from April 2020 these will be limited to a maximum of 40 daily vouchers.

1.4.2. Parking Decrim - New fee for Dog Bone marking, a service no longer offered by KCC.

1.4.3. Bulky Waste - A new cancellation fee of £5 to be deducted from refund when a collection is cancelled.

1.4.4. Commercial Waste - A new commercial service offered for Mechanical sweeping of private land on a price on application basis.

2. Scrutiny

2.1. The setting of 2020-21 fees and charges have been reviewed and scrutinised by the Fees and Charges Cabinet Advisory Group on 10 October 2019 and by Overview and Scrutiny Panel (OSP) on 22 October 2019.

2.2. The CAG focused mainly on fees and charges for car parking and were satisfied with the proposed charges for the forthcoming year.

2.3. OSP covered a broader a review of fees and charges and made the recommendation to Cabinet that:
'That Cabinet considered not to increase the events application fee, thereby keeping it at the current level of £75.'

2.4. Cabinet accepted this recommendation at its meeting on 14 November alongside the approval of the detailed schedule of fees and charges presented in Annex 1.

3. Implications

3.1. Annex 1 to this report sets out the proposed level of fees and charges for 2020-21 in respect of services provided by the council.

3.2. As a result of reviewing all the council's fees and charges, additional income of £208K is anticipated in 2019-20.

3.3. Table 1 compares 2019-20 to the proposed 2020-21 fees and charges. The proposals represent an increase in income of 2.5%. Some charges have remained at 2019-20 prices; others have increased to reflect parity with other authorities and some to cover the cost of providing the service.

Table 1 – Comparison with previous years

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Income Increase	**£390,000**	**£189,000**	**£208,000**
Percentage Increase	**4.0%**	**2.0%**	**2.5%**

3.4. The major changes proposed to fees and charges 2020-21 can be summarised in Table 2:

Table 2 – Summary of major changes

2020-21 Fees & Charges		Major Changes		
Ref	**Type of Fees & Charges**	New Fees	Deleted Fees	Increased Fees
1.	Car Parks – Off Street	✓	✓	·
2.	Car Parks – On Street	✓	·	·
4.	Crematorium	✓	·	✓
5.	Cemeteries	·	·	✓
6.	Commercial Waste	✓	·	POA
7.	Refuse - Bulky	✓	·	·
8.	Green Waste	·	·	✓
18.	B'stairs & M'gate Harbour	·	·	✓
19.	Ramsgate Harbour/Port	·	·	✓
24.	Licensing	✓	✓	✓
37.	Property Services	·	·	✓
Note: A tick shows that there has been a change. A blank means no change.				

4. Options

4.1 Council could notify officers of any changes required. If there are changes to those recommended that result in reduced income, then this will create a shortfall in the budget that will need to be funded from another source.

4.2 That Council approves the fees and charges for 2020-21.

5. Next Steps

5.1 If Council accepts the recommendations then the additional income generated by these proposals will be reflected in the 2020-21 budget report to the Council in February 2020.

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Annex List

Annex 1	Fees and Charges Schedule 2020-21

Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

Corporate Consultation

Finance	Chris Blundell, Head of Financial and Procurement Services
Legal	Estelle Culligan, Head of Legal Services
Communications	Hannah Thorpe, Head of Communications