

EXECUTIVE– 19 FEBRUARY 2013

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (CORPORATE DIRECTION)
RE: REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES 2013/14

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To inform Executive of the proposed scale Fees and Charges for 2013/14.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That Executive approve the Fees and Charges book for 2013/14, included at Appendix 1

2.2 That Executive note those Fees and Charges that are set externally by Council partners (e.g. Leisure)

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

3.1 The Council charges for a number of its services that are provided to the public. All fees and charges are reviewed on an annual basis as part of the budget setting process. The 2012/13 budget contained income from fees and charges of £2,989,165

3.2 When setting scales of charges, the following factors are taken into consideration:

- Statutory obligations
- Inflation and relevant indices
- Local market research (in particular the results of the 2011 Deloitte report) and competition (where relevant)
- The impact of price changes on activity level or demand
- Changes in taxation
- Budget position and links to the MTFS and the Corporate Plan
- The cost of providing the service

3.3 As at July 2012, Retail Price Index (RPI), which is a measure of inflation stood at 3.2%. This has been used as an index where appropriate in line with the Budget Strategy for 2013/14 which was endorsed by Executive and Finance, Audit and Performance Select Committee in October 2012.

3.4 The VAT rate and implications have been obtained for all charges, in consultation with the Council's VAT advisors RSM Tenon.

3.5 Appendix 1 shows the 2012/13 and 2013/14 charges, along with the percentage increase. In the majority of cases where discretionary charges can be made, increases have been made in line with RPI (or to the nearest round number associated with this increase). Some fees and charges are set by statute, for example Fixed Penalty Notices, and those under the Gambling and Licensing Acts and therefore charges have been in line with relevant guidance. Leisure Centre charges are set following discussion with SLM management.

3.6 The following new charges have been proposed for 2013/14:

- Commercial use of Parks and Open spaces for Fitness Training or Dog Training (Annual Licence Fee)
- Staff season tickets for car parking
- Charges for documents including Earl Shilton and Barwell Area Action Plan Preferred Option, Rural Needs SPD, Areas of Separation Review, District, Local and Neighbourhood Centre Review, Green Wedge Review and Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities Study

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (KB)**

Included in the report

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)**

The power to impose fees and charges is contained in various statutory provisions.

6. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

Value for money services are provided where economies of scale are achieved whenever possible, without reducing (and where possible enhancing) the delivery experience

The budget will have an indirect impact on all other Corporate Plan targets.

7. **CONSULTATION**

The Council consulted on all budget priorities in the Budget Setting Survey conducted in August/September 2012.

All budget holders, Corporate Operations Board and the Strategic Leadership Board have been consulted throughout the budget setting process.

8. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
That the Council has insufficient	That the budget strategy is	S. Kohli

resources to meet its aspirations and cannot set a balanced budget	applied to produce a balanced budget and demands are matched to resources	
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9. **KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

The budget process will impact on all areas of the Borough and all groups within the population

10. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning Implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: Fees and Charges submissions

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