



**WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS**

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1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To obtain approval of the proposed scale Fees and Charges for 2014/2015

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That Executive approve the Fees and Charges book for 2014/2015, 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 Council generates income of circa £3million from these sources annually.

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

- Statutory obligations
- Inflation and relevant indices
- Local market research 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 Retail Price Index (RPI), which is a measure of inflation has been used as an index where appropriate for up-rating charges from prior year. A rate of 3.2% has been used in line with the Budget Strategy for 2014/2015 which was endorsed by Executive.

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

3.5 Appendix 1 shows the 2013/14 and 2014/15 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 2014/2015:

- Penalty charges for lost balls and tennis rackets at Hollycroft Park

- Trade Waste charges following the introduction of the scheme
- Charges for new documents produced (e.g. Earl Shilton and Barwell Area Action Plan and Gypsy and Traveller Assessments)

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [KP]**

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**

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 2013.

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
None		

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.

Where concessions are made for certain groups for charging purposes these are detailed in the attached booklet.

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

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Background papers: Fees and Charges submissions

Contact Officer: Katherine Plummer (Head of Finance) ext 5609

Executive Member: Cllr K Lynch