

**COMMUNITY & WELLBEING COMMITTEE
24 JANUARY 2017**

FEES AND CHARGES 2017/18

Report of the: Director of Finance & Resources
Contact: Jo-Anne Chang-Rogers/ Ian Dyer/Mark Berry/Andrew Lunt
Urgent Decision?(yes/no) No
If yes, reason urgent decision required: N/A
Annexes/Appendices (attached): Annexe 1 – Committee Fees and Charges 17/18
Other available papers: None

REPORT SUMMARY

This report recommends fees and charges for which this Committee is responsible, with the new charges being effective from 1 April 2017.

RECOMMENDATION (S)

(1) That, subject to the approval of Council, the Committee agrees the fees and charges for 2017/18 as set out at Annexe 1.

Notes

1 Implications for the Council's Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy

1.1 As set out in the revenue estimates report on this agenda.

2 Background

2.1 The Council will meet to agree the budget, including estimates of income and expenditure, on 14 February 2017. To enable the budget to be finalised, the Policy Committees are being asked to recommend fees and charges covering the services for which they are responsible.

2.2 The fees and charges presented in this report are discretionary charges only. For discretionary charges there is scope to generate additional income, to reduce the subsidy of the service or to contribute to an improved budget position.

2.3 There are a number of charges that are set externally of which the Council has no control or power to alter. This restricts the Council's ability to raise additional income and therefore the fees and charges set by statute are not presented to this Committee for approval.

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- 2.4 The budget guidelines agreed by Strategy and Resources included an overall increase in revenue from discretionary fees and charges of 3%. The guidelines also anticipate that additional income may be generated to contribute to the required savings target.
- 2.5 When preparing estimates, fees and charges have been reviewed by service managers and any negative impact on demand anticipated by increased charges has been considered.
- 2.6 Members should refer to the estimates report on this agenda for an overview of the Committee's budget position.
- 2.7 In January 2013 the Committee agreed that the Director of Finance and Resources should have delegated authority to vary fees and charges for items generating income under £1,000 per annum. The Committee also agreed that the Director of Finance and Resources be permitted to set charges for one off services or items not included in the fees and charges schedule under delegated authority.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The proposed fees and charges for 2017/18 are set out at Annexe 1 to this report. The main variations in fees and charges for each service area outside the range of an increase between 3% to 5% are set out below:

3.1.1 Venues

Playhouse

No increases to membership fees are proposed, pending the introduction of a revised membership scheme.

Bourne Hall

Increases to charges at Bourne Hall have been kept at below 3% where officers feel that a higher increase could result in a loss of hirers.

3.1.2 Social Centres

Fees have generally been increased between 3%-5%, although there are some variations due to rounding of charges and where officers felt that higher charges could be introduced without creating a reduction in demand.

3.1.3 Parks

Charges for permission to use small gazebos/tents in parks have been maintained at current levels. The purpose of these is to keep a record of numbers.

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Sports Pitches

Booking for junior courts have been maintained as a deterrent to vandalism.

3.1.4 Local Nature Reserve

Fees for annual guided walks were substantially increased last year and officers feel that to increase it again could discourage participation.

3.1.5 Community Services

Community Alarm

No increase is proposed to Community Alarm monthly standard charges as current charges represent market rates and officers consider that an increase in price per unit could potentially have an adverse effect on customer volume.

Wellness Centre Activities

It is proposed that a nominal charge be introduced for participation in sessions at the Wellbeing Centre to cover costs. These are currently funded by Personalisation and Prevention Partnership funding which will cease from March 2017.

Shopping Service

To remain competitive with the current market no increase to charges are proposed. EEBC already have the second highest fees of the Surrey boroughs.

Routecall

Dial a ride single fare has been increased to encourage bookings of return journeys. Excursion charges will be set to cover the cost of trips plus overheads.

Shopmobility

Changes to charges are proposed in line with a previous year benchmarking exercise across other districts. It is proposed that the annual fee is increased, which includes two hours use of equipment at each visit.

4 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 4.1 The impact of the proposed fees and charges for services in 2016/17 is set out below.

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	Increase in Income Budget Target (3%) £'000	Total Increase or (Decrease) due to changes to Tariffs £'000	Variations resulting from changes to volumes	Variation between Target and total change £'000
Social Centre Service	3	3	(11)	(11)
Community Services	12	7	(25)	(30)
Bourne Hall	6	4	(22)	(24)
Ebbisham Centre	4	4	(3)	(3)
Ewell Court House	3	3	0	0
Playhouse	5	5	(2)	(2)
Allotments	1	1	0	0
Parks & Open Spaces	5	6	(2)	(1)
Total	39	33	(65)	(71)

4.1 The charges proposed will generate an additional estimated income of £33,000. This has been taken into account in the budget to be presented to the Council next month.

4.2 Due to reduced volumes of lettings/hires in some services it is predicted that for 2017/18 there is £71,000 less budgeted income from fees and charges than was incorporated into the budget target.

4.3 The revised level of income has been included in the medium term financial strategy to help towards a balanced budget over the next 4 years. Detailed breakdown of the 17/18 budget can be found in the budget report included on this agenda.

4.4 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** All financial implications are included within this report.

5 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)

5.1 There are no specific issues arising from this report but the Council's resources will need to be applied to ensure that it fulfils its statutory obligations and delivers its policy on equalities.

5.2 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** There are no legal issues arising from this report.

6 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications

6.1 None for the purposes of this report.

7 Partnerships

7.1 None for the purposes of this report.

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8 Risk Assessment

- 8.1 Income from services remains at risk due to the state of the economy. Charges have been set taking into account market conditions.
- 8.2 The continued delivery of Council services is dependent upon income generation, creating a risk to service delivery if charges are not set at levels that make a significant contribution to the Council's finances.

9 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 9.1 This report proposes new fees and charges for services with effect from 1 April 2017.
- 9.2 The impact of changes in fees and charges has been estimated and incorporated in the Committee's budget estimates 2017/18. If lower charges are agreed the Committee will be required to identify cost savings to enable the Council to meet its overall budget target.

WARD(S) AFFECTED: N/A