



REPORT TO: Environmental Services Portfolio Holder
AUTHOR/S: Director Health & Environmental Services

PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES FOR HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES 2018/19

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to propose fees and charges for Health & Environmental Services for the 2018/19 financial year.
2. This not a key decision. Under the terms of the Council's Constitution it is a decision for the portfolio holder.

Recommendations

3. That the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder confirms the proposed fees and charges set out in Appendix 1.
4. The fees set for commercial Trade Waste are not publicised due to commercial sensitivity

Reasons for Recommendations

5. Confirming the proposed fees and charges will contribute to the efficient and cost effective delivery of a range of council services that impact directly on people's safety and health.
6. Fees charged by competitors for trade waste are not readily available, therefore, by publicising our fees and charges for trade waste we allow an advantage to commercial competitors.

Background

7. Fees and charges for functions and services undertaken by Health & Environmental Services are reviewed at least annually and recommendations made for the next financial year. These are both statutory and therefore fixed, or discretionary, where there is an opportunity for variation.
8. In deciding on any variation the portfolio holder has previously had regard to a number of factors including council policy, council Aims and Objectives, economic factors e.g. inflation, neighbouring authority charges, market conditions and the need to recover costs.

9. For the purposes of cost recovery, actual costs incurred have been used wherever possible. Elsewhere, estimates have been used based on a combination of hourly rates, time spent etc. Although it has not been possible at this time to identify actual unit costs across all relevant service areas a formula has been identified and applied for our Primary Authority and Business Hub activities and will be used across other areas as required. Where the charging for EH&L services permit. A charging policy is currently being developed to bring transparency to the way we will approach chargeable services in the future across all health and Environmental services

Considerations

10. Appendix 1 shows the recommended charges for 2018/19 and includes references to policies relating to the charges. The council's current Medium Term Financial Strategy has assumed an inflationary increase of 1.9%. All discretionary fees have therefore been increased by this amount, rounded up to the nearest whole pound, where appropriate, except in the following areas:

Street and Layby Traders (Section 2)

11. Layby trader fees have been frozen at 2017/18 levels as the current fees continue to recover the council's costs

Licensing (Section 2)

12. Under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the fees charged should be set so as to be sufficient to cover in whole or part, the reasonable cost of administration or other costs in connection with the service.
13. A higher percentage increase has been applied to Animal licenses as they have shown a small deficit over recent years and the aim is to cover the cost of the service by the fees charged.
14. Acupuncture/ear piercing Tattooing & electrolysis fees have been amended to reflect in increasing trend in mobile units and persons who rent chairs similar to the hair dresser trade.
15. A new fee is recommended to cover changes being identified in tattooing and acupuncture type activities. Many persons conducting this style of business are increasingly doing so by renting spaces and/or operating mobile units. Therefore a restructure of the charging structure is introduced to reflect this.
16. Mesotherapy and Dermal Fillers are a range of injectable fillers, vitamins and enzymes primarily into soft tissue to either rejuvenate or tighten skin. At present the practice sits outside of any formal regulatory control, but enquiries have been made whereby businesses wish to be inspected and approved as meeting similar standards to Tattooing and acupuncture. Type activities, therefore a new fee is proposed.
17. The Joint Council of Cosmetic Practitioners (JCCP) formed in 2016 which represents all professional disciplines in the area of Mesotherapy and Dermal fillers including Plastic surgeons, Aesthetic doctors and beauty therapists are strongly supporting moves to raise standards within the industry, a voluntary registration scheme by SCDC to the identified standards would promote the safety of users in this area
18. Due to an amendment in licensing legislation due during 2018 for Houses in Multiple Occupation a new 1yr licence fee has been introduced

Household Collection Charges (Section 4)

19. Commercial clinical are now managed by the Commercial Waste Service, charges for which are report separately.
20. The charge for bulky household collections has been frozen at 2017/18 levels. The current level of fees encourages re-use and recycling, but still provides access to disposal services for those residents who are unable to access the household waste and recycling centres at Milton and Thriplow e.g. those without access to suitable transport.
21. It is proposed to reduce the administration charge for provision of a replacement black bin and the introduction of an administration charge for additional black bins, if approved, for larger families. It is anticipated that these changes would have limited financial impact on the service and this would also bring the charges in line with Cambridge City Charges.

Provision of Environmental Information – Research & Reporting (Section 6)

22. Environmental Protection Act 1990, Pollution Prevention Control Act 1999 (PPC) is a statutory fee set by DEFRA. A new fee structure has been introduced for 2018/19 which is reflected in there being no 2017/18 equivalent fees shown in Appendix 1

Options

23. The Portfolio Holder has the option to:
 - (a) Accept the charges detailed in Appendix 1
 - (b) Reject the charges detailed in Appendix 1
 - (c) Amend the discretionary fees and charges detailed in Appendix 1. There is no ability to amend statutory fees

Implications

24. The fees and charges for the next financial year set out in Appendix 1 will produce an income to the council that will contribute to the efficient and cost effective delivery of a range of council services that impact directly on people's safety and health.

25. Financial	The recommendation will result in a like for like increase in income
Legal	None identified at this time
Staffing	None identified at this time
Risk Management	Regular performance and financial monitoring of services
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this time
Equality Impact Assessment completed	Yes Partial EQIA completed. No adverse impacts identified
Climate Change	None identified at this time

Consultations

26. A number of adjoining Local Authorities have been consulted for comparative and consistency purposes.

Effect on Strategic Aims

27. Confirming the proposed fees and charges will contribute to the efficient and cost effective delivery of a range of council services that impact directly on people's safety and health, so contributing to the achievement of the council's Strategic Aims.

Conclusions / Summary

28. In setting the proposed level of discretionary fees and charges a number of factors have been taken into account, including council policy, council Aims and Objectives, economic factors e.g. inflation, neighbouring authority charges, market conditions and the need to recover costs.
29. In recognition of these factors some of the discretionary fees and charges have been subject to a below inflation increase. A small number of charges have however been either frozen or increased by a greater amount in response to market conditions and additional cost pressures.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

None

Contact Officer: Myles Bebbington – Head of Service Env Health & Licensing
Telephone: (01954) 712922