

APPENDIX B4

GENERAL FUND FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2015-16

Environmental Services Portfolio

Fees and charges relating to the Environmental Services Portfolio were presented to and agreed at the portfolio holder meeting on 12 December 2014. The report, decision sheet and draft minutes from that meeting can be accessed on the Council's website via the following link:

<http://scamb.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=868&MIId=6435&Ver=4>

Finance & Staffing Portfolio – Land Charges

Guidance for the setting of fees for local land charge services (Charges for Property Searches Regulations 2008) includes a requirement for the Authority to apply a methodology for assessing the costs of providing each land charge service, description of service or group of services, and the projected take-up of that service, and therefore the charge that should be made, over a period of between 1 and 3 years.

The authority is required to ensure that over a rolling period the total income does not exceed costs of unrefined information; as the guidance does not stipulate a requirement to break-even the Council could choose to support local residents and businesses by making a charge for services which recovers less than full cost.

The schedule of fees for Local Land Charges have been calculated on a cost recovery basis and accepted by the Legal Section; the revised schedule, with effect from 1 April 2015, is included as **Appendix B4(A)** for approval by Council.

Housing General Fund Portfolio – Travellers Sites

Gypsy and Traveller sites come under the legislation of the Mobile Homes Act 2011. Within this legislation, it states that pitch fees can only be raised/lowered by a maximum of the Retail Prices Index ("RPI") each year, so increases/decreases may vary year on year.

The RPI figure taken on the anniversary of the review (i.e. 2.3% as at October 2014) has been applied to the pitch fees and rounded up to the nearest 50p for ease of collection.

<u>Site</u>	<u>2014-15</u> p.w.	<u>2014-15</u> p.w.
Milton	£66.00	£68.00
Whaddon *	£58.00	£68.00

* The Whaddon pitch fee increase would only take effect once refurbishment works are completed. Until then, it is proposed to hold pitch fees at the current figure of £58.

Planning Portfolio – Planning Pre-Application Service

Proposed fees and charges relating to the Planning Portfolio were presented to the portfolio holder meeting on 3 February 2015. The portfolio holder endorsed the increase in fees, but as the new fees were likely to generate an annual increase in income of more than £50,000, recommended that the increase in fees be approved. The report and decision sheet from that meeting can be accessed on the Council's website via the following link:

<http://scams.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1059&MId=6499&Ver=4>

Planning Portfolio – Building Control

In view of the shared services initiative currently being explored with Cambridge City Council and Huntingdonshire Council, it is proposed to maintain Building Control fees at their present level for the time being. Any future proposal to change fees would be reported to Members for approval in the usual way.