

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

DATE	10th December 2012
PORTFOLIO	Resources & Performance Management
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Fees & Charges 2013/14**PURPOSE**

1. To inform Members of the Council's proposed fees and charges from 1st January 2013.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Executive recommend to Council approval of the proposed tariff of fees & charges from 1st January 2013 as outlined in Appendix A attached.
3. Authority is also sought from Full Council to allow the Head of Finance & Property Management in consultation with the relevant Head of Service to determine any new charges or changes to existing charges relating to the preparation and approval of the 2013/14 revenue budget.
4. Authority is also sought from Full Council to allow Executive Portfolio Members to amend fees & charges periodically in their own area on the basis that overall income in their portfolio area remains the same.
5. Authority is also sought from Full Council to the Head of Facilities Management in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources and Performance Management and the Director of Economic Regeneration to adjust fees and charges in relation to the Markets service from time to time to reflect current trading conditions and the overall position of the market.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

6. To set the Council's fees and charges from 1st January 2013 and assist in finalising the 2013/14 budget process.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

7. Heads of Service were asked to:

- a) ensure the tariff was comprehensive and covered all areas where charges are made
- b) confirm increases at an overall 3% for the service – they were able however to set increases higher or lower than 3% to achieve an overall 3% increase,
- c) confirm that the fees and corresponding vat rates are correct,
- d) give notification of any potential new areas for the introduction of fees and charges within their service area and of the proposed level of such fees and charges from 1st January 2013, and
- e) confirm the date of the fee increase.

8. The following areas should be noted :-

9. Sport & Culture

The majority of fees at leisure facilities will be frozen in order to retain existing customers and attract new users. Income at our leisure centres is above target for 2012/13 and therefore officers are confident this can be maintained in 2013/14.

There are a number of changes to concessionary rates, but many will remain the same, eg for juniors and swimming and Clear membership for over 60's.

The current discount rates for Leisure Passport holders have developed in an ad-hoc manner over past years and these will be moved to standardised discount rates of 25% for main activities over a number of years.

Free Swimming

The costs for the under 16 scheme are contained within the continuation budget and the existing over 60's scheme can be met within the Unit's budgets, so both schemes will remain.

10. Green Spaces and Amenities

In general a 3% increase will be adopted with the following main exceptions:

a) Bereavement Services

6% increase for Cremations and 4% increase for burials. This brings the charge for cremations more into line with the average charge for authorities in the region and recognises the recent significant investment in the cremators. The increase in burial fees reflects the long standing policy of the Council to try and cover the on-going maintenance costs.

b) Football

There is a continued reduction in adult teams/matches and cost is being cited as a reason. As a result, the charge for adults will be reduced from £53.80 to £50.00 to try and maintain income levels.

c) Allotments

Due to the small increases, these occur every 2 years, so the next increase will be for 2014/15.

d) Car Parking at Towneley

The charges will be frozen, however the charging periods will be extended to be broadly in line with town centre car parks. It is proposed that the change will be implemented on 1st February 2013 due to the legal notice, signage changes etc. that are required when

implementing these increases.

e) Golf

A 3% increase will be applied to Members and Season Ticket holders. Pay and Play charges will be frozen along with increased use of online booking sites to try and stimulate additional demand. The concession for Over 60's for Golf is reduced from 50% and the £8 charge per round will be increased to £9 per round in 2013/14 (normal price is £16).

11. Car Parking Fees

It is proposed that the fee increases will be implemented on 1st February 2013 due to the legal notice, signage changes etc. that are required when implementing these increases. Where contracts are sold quarterly (or longer) the fee increase will be implemented at the next renewal date.

12. Planning Application Fees

These fees are set by Parliament and the new fees came into force from 22nd November 2012.

13. Building Control Fees

Fees are set by Pennine Lancashire Building Control Joint Committee. Charges are subject to change when the Joint Committee meets to discuss the level of fees for 2013/14. Any changes are likely to be from 1st April 2013.

14. Garage Sites & Garden Plots

If these fees are agreed, tenants require a minimum of 3 months' notice of the increases. Therefore, the fees would be increased on 1st April 2013.

15. Taxi Licensing

A separate report is being prepared for Committee to determine the fees for 2013/14. The tariff will therefore remain at the 2012/13 level until the new fees are approved. The intended date for implementing the increase in these fees is 1st April 2013.

16. Local Air Pollution Prevention & Control (LAPPC)

These fees are set by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and will not be decided until the new year. Therefore, any increases are not likely to be implemented until 1st April 2013.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

17. All variations included in the income tariff have been incorporated within the 2013/14 revenue budget.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

18. None directly as a consequence of this report.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

19. Heads of Service
Director of Resources
Management Team

BACKGROUND PAPERS

20. none

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

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ALSO:

**Phil Moore - Head of Finance & Performance
Management – ext. 7173**