

FEES AND CHARGES REPORT

APPENDIX 3 – REVENUE SERVICES

1. Service description

Revenue Service has a limited number of Fees and Charges namely;

- Court Costs added to Council Tax Accounts
- Court Costs added to NNDR Accounts

It is the Council's duty to collect all instalments as they become due.

The Council's recovery policy has been prepared in compliance with current legislation but we try to be responsive to individual circumstances.

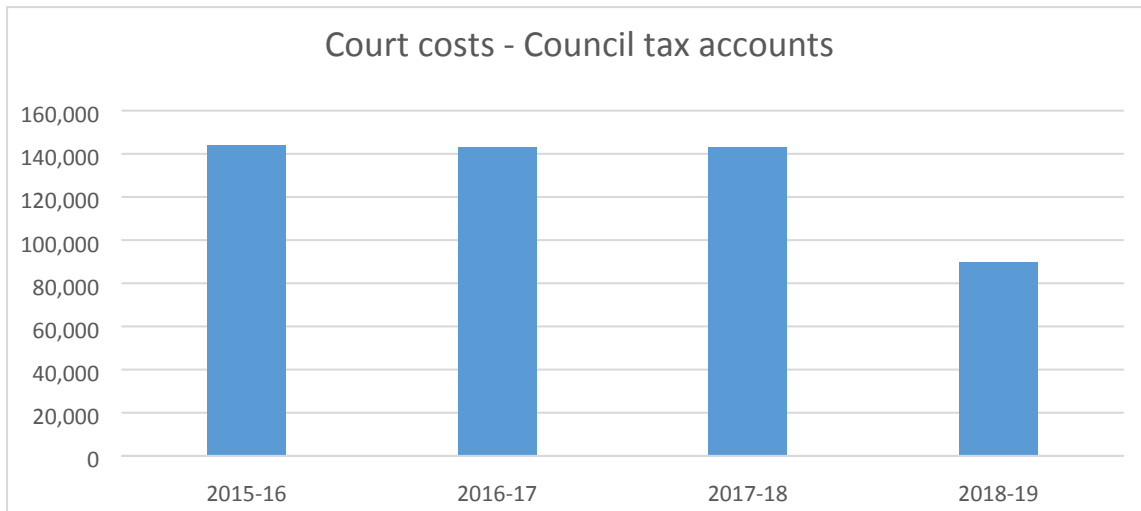
Recovery procedures and the Court timetable for Council Tax is agreed in advance and ensures that all taxpayers are treated fairly and objectively.

If an account holder receives a summons it is because they have not ensured that we have received payments in accordance with notices that have been sent (e.g. the Demand and Reminder Notices).

The Council can ask the Magistrates to issue a 'liability order' if a debtor owes unpaid Council Tax and this is a legal demand for payment. The account holder is allowed to go to the court and give reasons for not paying if they wish and the Council is entitled to request costs be ordered against any payment defaulters to go towards the cost of collection of the debt.

2. Prior years analysis, current financial year projections

Court Costs added to council tax accounts are collected by West Lindsey District Council



Court Costs added to NNDR accounts is collected by City of Lincoln on our behalf.



3. Pricing

Court costs are fixed annually with the Courts. In 2018/19 the initial Cost of Summons was Council Tax £75 and NNDR £85.

The Council is required to calculate the cost of Summons for Council Tax to ensure the amount charged is reasonable and transparent for court. In July 2018 the Ministry of Justice reduced the charge of the Court due to legislation changes to £0.50 from £3.00, this along with other efficiencies has resulted in a reduction in costs to £70.01. The fee of £75.00 was therefore no longer reasonable and a reduction is required in 2018/19 (with immediate effect) and 2019/20 of £5.00, resulting in a new charge of £70.00. The reduction in 2018/19 has been approved at the Corporate Policy and Resources in the quarter 2 monitoring report.

The same impact is applied to NNDR resulting in a reduction of £2.50 from £85.00 to £82.50.

4. Understanding Customers and Markets

If an account holder receives a summons it is because they have not ensured that we have received payments in accordance with notices that have been sent (e.g. the Demand and Reminder Notices).

5. Proposed Charging

The court costs added to Council Tax accounts and NNDR accounts are both Statutory Fixed. The charges are set in March and are not yet published. For 2019/20 a permanent reduction will be required for both Council Tax and NNDR Court Costs, as detailed above.

6. Recommendation

Members are asked to approve charges for 2019-20 to Council.

Policy and Resources Committee		Revenue Services				
2018/19	Proposed		2019/20	VAT Amount	2019/20 Charge Inc. VAT	VAT Rate
	Increase	decrease				
£	% Type	or £	£	£	£	
Revenues*						
Court costs added to Council Tax accounts.			£70.00	£0.00	£70.00	0%
Court costs added to NNDR accounts.			£82.50	£0.00	£82.50	0%

* Charges agreed with Magistrates