

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.

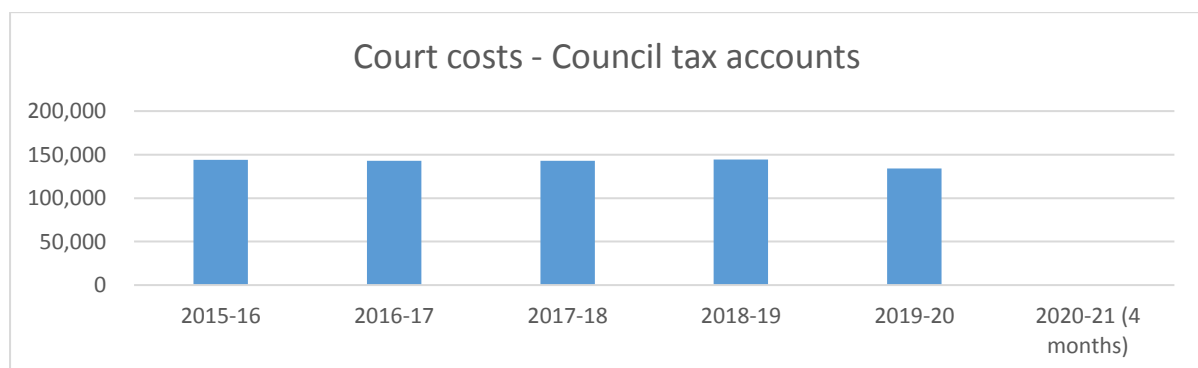
If an account holder receives a summons it is because they have not ensured that we have received payments in accordance with notices that have been sent (e.g. the Demand and Reminder Notices).

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 are collected by City of Lincoln on our behalf.





3. Covid Impact

Due to Covid-19, the Council has not issued any court summons for 2020/21. Soft reminders have been issued for the first four months of the financial year, with formal debt collection recommencing during August 2020. This has therefore had an adverse effect on the number of liability orders granted and the recovery of fixed costs from running the revenues team for the first four months of 2020/21.

4. Pricing

The council is required to calculate the cost of summons (Court Costs) to ensure the amount charged is reasonable and transparent for court.

The full cost of summons (Court Costs) for Council Tax is £72.48, it is therefore reasonable to increase the charge to £72.50 from £70.00.

The cost of summons for NNDR will also be increased by £2.50 to £85.00.

5. 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).

6. Proposed Charging

The court costs are added to Council Tax and NNDR accounts and are both Statutory Fixed. The charges are set in March and are not yet published, however it is assumed that the proposed fee increase will be accepted.

7. Recommendation

Members are asked to approve charges for 2021-22 to Council as per the below:

Policy and Resources Committee

Revenue Services

2020/21 Excl. VAT	2020/21 Inc. VAT	Proposed Increase/decrease		2021/22	VAT Amount	2021/22 Charge Inc. VAT	VAT Rate
£	£	% Type	or £	£	£	£	

Revenues *

Court costs added to Council Tax accounts	£70.00	£70.00	4%	£2.50	£72.50	£0.00	£72.50	OS
Court costs added to NNDR accounts	£82.50	£82.50	3%	£2.50	£85.00	£0.00	£85.00	OS

* Charges agreed with Magistrates