

# 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.

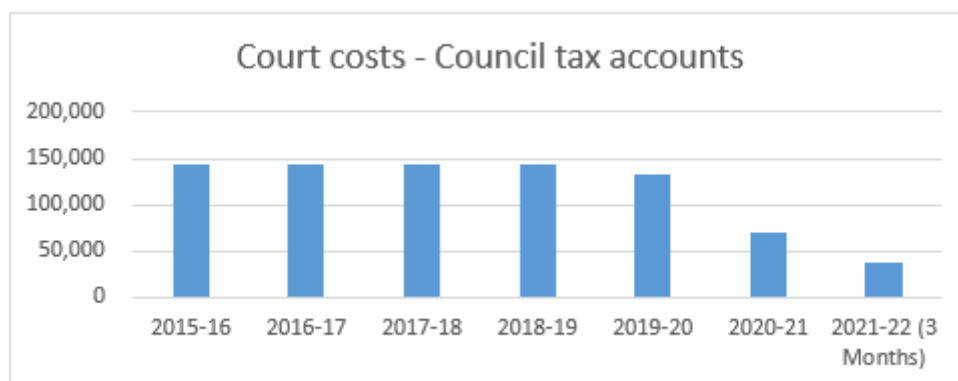
If an account holder receives a summons it is because they have not ensured that we have received payments in accordance with notices that have been sent (e.g. the Demand and Reminder Notices).

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.



Collection rates lower in 2020/2021 due to Covid-19 Pandemic and halt on debt recovery.



### 3. COVID Impact

Due to Covid-19, the Council was only able to issue summonses for one month in January 2021 in respect of 2020/2021 arrears. However, for 2021/2022 normal recovery action has resumed and reminders and summonses have been issued during the first four months of the financial year. The Magistrates Court has allocated courts for non-payment of council tax through to September 2021 and it is anticipated they will allocated further court time throughout the rest of the financial year shortly. Collection rates continue to be maintained during 2021/2022.

### 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 £73.44, it is therefore reasonable to increase the charge to £73.50 from £72.50.

The cost of summons for NNDR will remain at £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. Impact on Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

	2022/23 (£)	2023/24 (£)	2024/25 (£)	2025/26 (£)	2026/27 (£)
Current Budget in MTFP	(162,000)	(164,000)	(164,000)	(164,000)	(164,000)
Proposed Budget - Summons & Committal Costs Recovered	(162,000)	(164,000)	(164,000)	(164,000)	(164,000)
Impact on MTFP 2022/23 Pressure/ (Saving)	-	-	-	-	-

## 8. Recommendation

Members are asked to approve charges for 2022/2023 to Council as per the below:

Policy and Resources Committee

Revenue Services

2021/22	Proposed Increase / (Decrease)		2022/23	VAT Amount	2022/23 Charge Inc. VAT	VAT Rate
	£	%				

Revenues \*

Court costs added to Council Tax accounts.	£72.50	1.4%	£1.00	£73.50	£0.00	£73.50	OS
Court costs added to NNDR accounts.	£85.00	0.0%	£0.00	£85.00	£0.00	£85.00	OS

\* Charges agreed with Magistrates