

Subject: Proposed Fees and Charges 2018/19

Report by:	Tracey Bircumshaw, Finance and Business Support Manager
Contact Officer:	Tracey Bircumshaw Finance and Business Support Manager 01427 676560 tracey.bircumshaw@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	Propose revised Fees and Charges to take effect from 1 April 2018.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. That Members recommend to Council for approval the proposed Fees and Charges as detailed in Appendix 1-5.**
- 2. That Members recommend to Council for approval the proposed Fees and Charges as recommended by Prosperous Communities Committee and detailed at Appendix 6-17.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None arising as a result of this report

Financial : FIN/80/18

The 2018/2019 fees and charges are explained in the body of this report.

The increased income generated of £7K will be built into the Medium Term Financial Plan.

For information it is expected that the Government will announce an increase of 20% to Statutory Planning Fees as part of the Autumn Statement. No assumptions have been made at this time.

Staffing: None arising as a result of this report.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

The Equality Act 2010 places a responsibility on councils to assess their budget options before taking decisions on areas that could result in discrimination. Where appropriate assessments have been undertaken by the relevant service areas.

Risk Assessment :

All items where necessary have been risk and equality impacted assessed by the relevant budget holder.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

There are no significant climate related risks and opportunities relating to this report.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

N/A

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

Yes

☐

No

X

Key Decision:

Yes

X

No

☐

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed fees and charges for 2018/19.
- 1.2 The Council has in place a corporate Fees, Charges and Concessions Policy which aims to provide clear guidance on a number of areas. In particular this focuses on how fees and charges can assist in the achievement of corporate priorities, the setting of new and reviewing of existing charges, the Council's approach to cost recovery and income generation from fees and charges and eligibility for concessions.
- 1.3 It is recognised that although full cost recovery will be the customary approach, this will not be appropriate in all circumstances and the amount charged will need to be a reflection of many factors including Council objectives, market conditions, the cost of collection and the potential impact on customers.
- 1.4 Work has been undertaken to bring these fees and charges in line with this policy starting in 2017-18, through reviewing existing fees and charges and considering the introduction of new charges for Council services, to recover costs and control demand.
- 1.5 Through the policy outlined above and implemented where appropriate in 2017-18 the areas within Corporate Policy and Resources are proposed to be frozen for 2018-19. Statutory charges have not been amended by central government and the non-statutory fees and charges are still recovering costs of providing the service and are in line with local benchmarking. Details of all fees and charges are included at Appendix 1-5.
- 1.6 Prosperous Communities Committee has reviewed those fees and charges under their responsibility and recommends these for approval, some of which have previously been agreed. These are attached at Appendix 6-.

2 Fees and Charges

Officers have reviewed the fees and charges with their service area and set out below is a summary of the proposals.

2.1 Appendix 1. Electoral services

The rates are statutory and set by Central Government, there have been no proposals to increase. If we receive information that the fees are to change we will amend and charge appropriately.

2.2 Appendix 2. Room Hire

This services proposes to maintain fees for room hire at the current rates, ensuring price stability. This will bring charges into closer alignment with other Local Authorities and the local offer, whilst not compromising on full cost recovery. Market demand needs to be established over the next financial year to see if a price reduction would stimulate demand.

2.3 Appendix 3. Property Naming

The current fee has been frozen until 2020/21 at £68 as agreed at Fees and Charges for 2017/18. The charges achieve full cost recovery

2.4 Appendix 4. Central & Democratic Committee Services

Whilst there has been little or no demand for subscriptions to agenda reports and minutes or photocopies therefore no increase is proposed on current charges.

2.5 Appendix 5. Revenue Services

This is a statutory fee reviewed annually in March by the Court Service. At this time it is not envisaged that there will be an increase.

3. Fees and Charges Recommended by Prosperous Communities Committee

3.1 Appendix 6. Car Parks

Pricing is currently subject of a consultation exercise. Fees proposed are in accordance with the Gainsborough Car Park Strategy approved earlier this year.

3.2 Appendix 7. Cemeteries

Previously approved charges for 2018/19, therefore provided for information

3.3 Appendix 8. Environment Services

Mainly statutory fees set at the maximum.

3.4 Appendix 9. Fixed Penalty Notices

Mainly statutory set charges. Proposal to remove the discounted rate for Fly tipping of £250 – all charges therefore £400. No change to locally

3.5 Appendix 10. Land Charges

Proposed increase of 3.5% across all charges.

3.6 Appendix 11. Licensing

Inflationary increases 3.5%, Vehicles licences remain static and Sex Shop Licence renewal reduced.

3.7 Appendix 12. Markets

Ongoing review of the service - proposed no change at this time.

3.8 Appendix 13. Planning

Planning fees are statutorily set. Proposal to increase Pre-Application Advice by 3.5%

3.9 Appendix 14. Strategic Housing

The Selective Licensing charge was set for a 5 year period up to 2021/22

3.10 Appendix 15. Trinity Arts Centre

Propose to remove all fees and charges with prices now on application, this is due to the variety of requirements of customers.

3.11 Appendix 16. Waste Services

No increase (slight roundings). Trade Waste charges will be on application and set within a competitive market.

3.12 Appendix 17. Building Control (Confidential)

No increase proposed as current fees considered competitive in the market and full cost recovery is being achieved.