DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
MANAGEMENT TEAM	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	7 JANUARY 2020	6

BUDGET SETTING – FEES AND CHARGES 2020/21

PUBLIC ITEM
This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

Each year, as part of the budget-setting process, the schedule of fees and charges for the coming year (for each of the services that the Council provides) is reviewed by budget-holders prior to that schedule being considered by the relevant Programme Committee and finally being approved at the March Budget Council meeting.

Each Programme Committee is required to recommend to the Council for approval a schedule of fees and charges for those activities within the remit of the Committee.

This report requests that Members consider the proposed schedule of fees and charges for those services within the remit of this committee as detailed at Appendix A to this report and provide a recommendation to Council in this regard.

Note: A full schedule of proposed fees and charges for all Council services for 2020/21 is accessible at the link below:

https://new.fylde.gov.uk/council/finance/draft-fees-and-charges-2020-21/

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is requested to consider the schedule of fees and charges for those activities within the remit of this committee as detailed in Appendix A to this report and:

1. To recommend to Council a proposed schedule of fees and charges applicable for 2020/21; and
2. To note that the final fees and charges for 2020/21 will be approved by the Budget Council in March 2020.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The proposed fees and charges for services that are within the terms of reference of each programme committee are recommended to Council for approval as part of the annual budget-setting process. There have been no previous decisions in respect of these fees and charges for 2020/21.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (**Value for Money**)	√
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (**Clean and Green**)	√
Working with all partners (**Vibrant Economy**)	√
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (**A Great Place to Live**)	

Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (**A Great Place to Visit**)	

REPORT

1. Each year, as part of the budget-setting process for the coming financial year, budget-holders are required to review the fees and charges that the Council applies to the range of services which it delivers.

2. There are different considerations for assessing changes to the level of fees and charges depending upon the nature of the service. This is explained below:

   - For certain activities, for example some environmental health-related activities, fee levels are set by statute at a prescribed level. In respect of these types of activity the review of fees and charges is restricted to ensuring that the correct amount is approved by Council and is correctly applied for the forthcoming year;

   - For other types of charges in respect of services for which the Council has statutory responsibilities (for example in relation to licensing matters) fee levels must be set at an appropriate level such that only eligible costs are recovered. In respect of these types of activity the review of fees and charges comprises a review of costs and the adjustment of fees where necessary to avoid the under or over-recovery of costs. Where only minor discrepancies are found between costs and fee levels the charges may be left unchanged until the next review to avoid the costs associated with more regular leaflet re-printing etc.; and

   - For other activities which are not set by statute and for which the Council is not acting under statutory powers (e.g. games site fees) fee levels may be set at levels that are determined by the Council itself. In respect of these types of activity the review of fees and charges comprises a review of costs, a review of the fee levels of competitor providers and after a consideration of the likely effect on demand for the services and the total income that would be received at different fee levels.

3. Fee levels for all services have been reviewed according to the differing criteria as described above and the Programme Committee is invited to consider and provide comments as appropriate.

4. The role of the Council's Programme Committees in providing a recommendation to Council of a schedule of fees and charges for services within the remit of that committee is a key part of the budget-setting process for the coming year. The final schedule of fees and charges for all Council services will be considered by the Budget Council in March 2020.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The recommendation to Council of a schedule of proposed fees and charges for services within the remit of each Programme Committee is a key part of the budget-setting process for the coming year. This report requests that Members consider the schedule of fees and charges as detailed at Appendix A and provide a recommendation to Council as appropriate. Any financial implications from proposed changes to fees and charges will be quantified and reflected in the financial forecast contained in the final Medium Term Financial Strategy report to be considered by Budget Council in March 2020.
Legal	None arising from this report
Community Safety	None arising from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising from this report

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Management Team		December 2019

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
n/a	n/a	n/a