

7 December 2016

Environment & Housing Management Committee

Fees & Charges – Street Scene and Housing

Report of: Dawn Taylor – Business Support Services Manager/
Angela Williams – Interim Head of Housing

Wards Affected: All

This report is: Public

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Fees and charges made by the Council for various services are reviewed on an annual basis by the relevant Committees relating to the Services.
- 1.2 Recommended amendments to fees and charges are incorporated into the budget setting process to take effect from the following financial year.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the proposed fees and charges attached in Appendix A and B are agreed and incorporated within the 2017/18 budget.**

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 The Council has a number of fees and charges relating to the services it provides. As part of the budget setting process, these charges are reviewed on an annual basis. Whilst some of the fees and charges are statutory, and therefore determined through legislation, the Council must also review its charges for discretionary services to ensure that they reflect the current cost of service provision.
- 3.2 The individual charges that are being proposed are set out in Appendix A and B of this report.

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

Street Scene

- 4.1 -Some fees were increased last year, but some were not and therefore, it is proposed to implement an increase of 2.5% (to be rounded to nearest pound). There are 3 notable exceptions to the key principles laid out above, and these are as follows:

- I. Trade Waste – as agreed previously some services such as Trade Waste operates in a competitive environment and need to be in a position to change within the market(s). Trade Waste fees are delegated to Managers to make appropriate changes either through negotiations or when the market dictates.
- II. Garden Waste Leased Bin charge – currently the fee for a Brown bin is £41.00 and has been for a few years. The Street Scene Department recently took part in an Income Generation Review run by BDO (Internal Auditors) and their recommendation was that the Council matches the mean average price for the peer group (£45.82) over the next four years; we have therefore recommended £45.00.
- III. Garden Waste Sacks - We currently sell garden waste sacks at various retail outlets throughout the Borough at £2.60 per roll (10 sacks per roll). Following feedback from Customers, it is felt that we need to supply stronger green garden sacks. To enable us to provide these we will need to increase the cost as the manufacturing cost will be higher. We are recommending that the price per roll would rise to £3.00.

Housing

- 4.2 Officers have undertaken a review of the proposed fees and charges in relation to the services that the Council currently supplies that are discretionary and that can be cost recovered.
- 4.3 In addition to reviewing discretionary services, Officers have also reviewed the services the Council pays for which are deemed rechargeable, but the Council is currently subsidising.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

Street Scene

- 5.1 The recommendation is to increase charges by 2.5% (rounded to nearest pound) plus the exceptions detailed above, which will make a small contribution to the subsidised services provided by the Council and aiming to recover the cost of the services being provided.

Housing

- 5.2 The recommendation is to introduce additional fees and charges in relation to Leasehold property services as detailed in Appendix B.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 Not applicable

7. References to Corporate Plan

- 7.1 A Modern Council – providing increased customer satisfaction in the quality of Council Services.
- 7.2 Costs of services provided based on efficient systems providing value for money to customers.
- 7.3 Housing, Health and Wellbeing: Recovery of rechargeable repairs and services will meet the Council's commitment to service improvements and will also contribute to a more cost efficient service which will subsequently assist in providing the best outcomes for Brentwood residents.

8. Implications

Financial Implications

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- 8.1 Discretionary Services provided by the Council will eventually become cost neutral and remain cost neutral. Bad debt will have to be monitored over the introduction of the re-charge policy to ensure charges are being recovered.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Saleem Chughtai, Legal Services Manager

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Council's have a variety of powers to charge for specific statutory services as set out in Statute. By publishing the Council's fees and charges not only provides transparency but also satisfies legal requirements.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

- 8.2 None.

9. Background Papers (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

- 9.1 None.

10. Appendices to this report

Appendix A – Fees and Charges - Street Scene

Appendix B – Fees and Charges – Housing

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