



COMMITTEE TITLE: Clean & Green Committee

DATE: 11 December 2023

REPORT TITLE:	Fees & Charges
REPORT OF:	Marcus Hotten, Director of Environment

REPORT SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1. Agree to the proposed charges for the 2023/24 as attached in Appendix A-D subject to the annual budget setting process.**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To ensure that adequate resource are provided to undertake a comprehensive tree stock survey, as highlighted by the internal audit report undertaken by BDO.
- 1.2 To ensure that the Council's Tree and Woodland Management Strategy reflects current best practice and provide a robust and defensible policy framework.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council has several 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 costs of service provision.

- 2.3 The individual charges that are being proposed are set out in Appendix A-D of this report.
- 2.4 The proposed fees are based on a calculation of the costs involved in administering the various areas of work, apart from where there is a statutory charge or where the fees are set by Government.
- 2.5 The Council, where possible, will adopt a full cost recovery of fees and charges.
- 2.6 It is proposed that all current non-statutory fees and charges are increased by inflation, which is approximately xx. This is to reflect increases in costs to maintain services. However, managers can amend their fees and charges above or below this recommended percentage increase as long as the change can be justified within the supporting covering sheets to the appendix.
- 2.7 Within each appendix a covering sheet explains the following:
- a) Objectives and rationale behind the fees and charges
 - b) The proposed change in fee
 - c) Justification for this revision
 - d) Any benchmarking undertaken to aid in informing the level of change
 - e) Whether any consultation needs to be considered.
 - f) Expected income from the proposed fees and charges.
- 2.8 The fees and charges with proposed changes are:

Open Spaces

Charges have been increased by 6.8% and rounded to the nearest whole number.

Cemeteries

Charges have been increased by 6.8% and rounded to the nearest whole number

Golf Course

Charges have been increased by 6.8and rounded to the nearest whole number

Building Control

Charges have been increased by 6.8% and rounded to the nearest whole number

Waste Management (non-commercial)

Charges have been increased by 5% and rounded to the nearest whole number

Waste Management (Commercial)

The exempt appendix details a baseline for charging, however as other commercial operators supply the same service in the Borough, the Council will enter into negotiations with customers who wish to enter into a trade waste collection contract to ensure the Council is competing with other commercial providers.

Baseline charges have increased based on the increase in disposal and operating costs – approximately 3%.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Tim Willis, Director – Resources & Section 151 Officer
Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / tim.willis@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

3.1 Financial implications are set out within the report and appendices.

4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Joint Acting Up Director People & Governance & Monitoring Officer
Tel & Email 01277 312500 / claire.mayhew@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

4.1 The Council is able under the relevant legislation to recover costs for services it provides. The Council can charge for discretionary services under the Local Government Act 2003 section 93 and the Localism Act 2011 general power of competence and is able to review the fees and charges in line with these provisions.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

6.1 There is a risk that the pricing structure reduces demand and income for the coming financial year, price rises are considered against inflation, and benchmarking of similar service where appropriate.

7.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager - Communities, Leisure and Health
Tel & Email 01277 312500 kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk

The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it make decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

- a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act make discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful
- b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and 'civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).

The proposals in this report will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on anybody with a protected characteristic.

8.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Henry Muss, Sustainability Manager

Email henry.muss@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

None identified

REPORT AUTHOR:

Name: Marcus Hotten

Title: Director - Environment

Phone: 01277 312500

Email: Marcus.hotten@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Building Control

Appendix B - Cemeteries

Appendix C - Golf

Appendix D – Open spaces

Appendix E – Waste Management (PART EXEMPT)

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

