

Briefing notes on Issues included in the Forward Plan Issue 2004/05

SERVICE AREA:

Report ref	Report title
ES-04/05-269	Environment Fees and Charges
<p>Summary / Nature of Decision to be taken/Intended Outcome</p> <p>Paragraph 3.1 (o) of Part 4 of the Constitution removes from the delegated authority of any officer a decision which relates to the setting, levying or increase of any fees or charges to any member of the public in respect of a Council service (other than room lettings and copying charges). It is therefore necessary for Members to agree any changes to fees and charges for services.</p> <p>As part of the annual review of budgets, growth and savings officers responsible for budgets consider the level of fees and charges for services where the authority has discretion over the level and decide whether to recommend any changes. Those reviews in Environmental Services have identified a number of changes necessary to take account of inflation, to better recover costs, or to achieve a savings target. Where charges are set by statute or regulation eg for planning or liquor licensing, no approval is needed.</p> <p>The report will propose changes in the level of fees and charges for Land Charges, Trading Standards, Health Safety & Licensing, Environmental Health and the Cemeteries and Mortuary Service.</p> <p>No changes are proposed at present in StreetCare, Transportation, Planning, Building Control or Registrars. Parking fees have been dealt with in a separate report in an earlier cycle. Charges in relation to Parks and Sports are subject to a separate review and any changes will be proposed in a report to the Executive in April.</p> <p>The changes to be proposed are broadly in line with inflation or a little higher to reflect the slightly higher than inflation cost pressures Council budgets are subject to (for example through increased pension contributions).</p> <p>Charges for the Cemeteries and Mortuary service were increased on 10 January 2005 and, through an oversight, Executive approval was not sought in advance. The report will seek retrospective approval for these changes.</p>	
<p>Timescale for decision: The report is scheduled to go to the Executive on 14th March 2005.</p>	
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