

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The review of fees and charges forms part of the Council's annual budget setting process and assists with the delivery of budget saving targets. Many Planning and Social Services fees and charges are set by Central Government. Local authorities charge a wide range of fees for a wide range of services. In some cases, such as certain parking contraventions and planning applications, the fee levels are set by statute, or at any rate by bodies other than the council, and in levying the fees the council has no discretion as to the price.
- 1.2 The Council is committed to moving towards a sustainable medium-term financial plan, whilst not making services unaffordable to households on limited incomes. In order to ensure fees and charges are being used effectively, the council will ensure its overall charging policy links with its corporate aims and objectives. It is vital that the council looks at all opportunities for reducing costs and increasing income.
- 1.3 A complete review of all fees and charges is currently being undertaken following published CIPFA guide on Income Maximisation to ensure that all costs that can be properly levied are identified to ensure full cost recovery. The review includes analysis to determine how Brent's charges compare to other councils and other competitors in the market. Reviews will be taken forward in tranches and this will enable some of the additional income to be achieved from 2017/18.

2.0 REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR SERVICES

In the majority of cases no changes are proposed. There are, however, a small number of proposals to increase prices for specific services which are discussed below.

Parking

- 2.1 Charges for parking were dealt with comprehensively at the Cabinet meeting of 16th November 2015, and Visitors Parking Permits was approved after formal consultation. It was agreed that a standard all-day charge for visitor parking permits would increase from £1.50 to £4.50, and increase in the charge for Annual Visitor Household permit from £110 to £165 for a full year, from £66 to £99 for six months, and from £44 to £66 for three months.
- 2.2 All charges are shown exclusive of VAT.

Building Control

- 2.3 Building Regulation charges must be set at a level which takes account of all relevant costs incurred in operating the service. In general, fees and charges aim to recover the full cost attributable to providing the service directly from users. The ability to charge is restricted in line with legislation and, in most cases, is limited to cost recovery. In the cabinet meeting of

December 2015 it was agreed a revised Brent Building Regulation Charges Scheme No 11, incorporating revised policies, charges and guidance. This is to come into effect on 1 January 2016 or as soon thereafter as the changes can practically be implemented. It is estimated that additional income through the proposals in this report would generate an additional £56k per annum.

- 2.4 Overall fees & charges approved increase will generate additional income of £851k per annum in 2016/17. Appendix Q(ii) set outs increase fees and charges approved by Cabinet.
- 2.5 Appendix Q(iii) includes fees & charges with no changes for 2016/17.