

Proposed Decision to be Made by the Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety on or after 7 August 2020

Trading Standards Fees and Charges 2020-21

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety
Date of decision	11th August 2020
	Signed 

1.0 Decision

That the Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety:

- 1) approves the fees and charges as set out in the report.
- 2) Agrees that a review of the fees and charges will take place in the Autumn of 2020 to ensure that they are fully reflective of the full costs to the council and in line with the government and commercial sector.

2.0

2.1 To ensure that fees and charges are maintained at a level which accounts for increased costs and inflation.

3.0 Background information

3.1 It is the County Council's practice that all fees and charges are increased each year by at least the rate of inflation. (See Appendix for proposed new rates).

3.2 One option considered was implementing a greater increase in all or part of the Fees and Charges related to Trading Standards. Officers carried out an initial scoping exercise to consider the opportunities for increases in specialist areas such as Calibrations Services. A benchmarking exercise was carried out with comparable local authorities and commercial competitors. The outcome of the scoping exercise was not conclusive. Commercial competitors do not publicise their fees and charges and other local authorities appear to be charging similar amounts.

3.3 In light of the above, the recommendation was to increase the fees and charges in line with the rate of inflation and to carry out a more details cost analysis in the Autumn 2020.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 Fees and Charges are reviewed annually.

4.2 In calculating charges for the year 2020/2021, the aim has been to achieve an overall increase in income matching an inflation rate of 2%, except where particular circumstances (need for greater cost recovery, new chargeable activity etc.) warrants a different level of increase or decrease in relation to a specific type of charge.

Environmental implications

None

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Lead Director	Strategic Director for Communities
Lead Member	Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers

None

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Andy Crump
Corporate Board – 15th July
Legal – Ian Marriott
Finance – Rosemary Gowers
Equality – n/a
Democratic Services – Paul Williams