

Report to: Executive Cabinet Member
Environmental Services

Date: 20th February 2017

Report of: Director of Place
Borough Treasurer

Report No: ECMES/53/17

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Report Title: **Environmental Services and Housing Services – Fees & Charges
Report for 2017/18**

Non Confidential

This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public

Purpose:

This report sets out proposals for fees and charges for 2017/18 which do not conform with budget guidance for income inflation.

Recommendations:

The Executive Member is asked to approve the proposals relating to fees and charges to take effect from Saturday 1st April 2017.

Decision:

Background Doc(s):

(for use on Exec Rep)

Signed:

Leader / Executive Member

Monitoring Officer

Date:

This report does not require an equality impact assessment to be carried out due to being outside the high and medium relevance review requirements

1 INTRODUCTION

This report seeks Executive Cabinet Member approval for increases in fees & charges above or below the 1% inflationary target in respect of a number of services within Environmental Services and Housing Services.

2 BACKGROUND & PROPOSALS

As part of the corporate financial guidance, there is an assumption that all external fees and charges are increased by 1%. Due to cash handling purposes, the exact inflationary increase may be up slightly more.

However, there are a number of charges where no increase or a percentage increase above the guidance figure of 1% is proposed.

2.1 Highways – Parking Services

It is proposed that there be no increase to the current levels of parking charges for on street parking with the exception of the outer long stay band up to 10 hours tariff which is proposed to be increased by 10 pence per day to £2.70

2.2 Community Services – Bereavement Services

2.2.1 Cremation Charges

Bolton's current cremation fee is £675. It is proposed that the fee is increased to **£715** (6.0% increase). The fee for a Saturday cremation will increase from £930 to **£970**.

In determining the level of price increase, the issues to consider are as follows:

- Increase in operating costs.
- The costs charged by neighbouring crematoria for an Adult Cremation:

Radcliffe & Chorley	£936 - from 24/9/16 weekdays £1,404 Saturdays
Howe Bridge	£795 - from 1/1/17 weekdays £1,095 - Saturdays
Manchester Blakeley	£752 – from 1/4/16

2.2.2 Burial Charges

Bolton's current fee for exclusive right of burial (new grave) is £805. It is proposed to increase this to **£829.15** (3%). Interment fees will also be increased e.g. burial to depth of 6'0" will increase from £663 to **£682.89** (3%).

The cost charged by neighbouring authorities from 1st April 2016:

	New Grave - resident	New Grave - non- resident	Interment - resident	Interment - non- resident
Wigan	£820		£825	
Salford	£1,015	£1,575	£955	£1,470
Bury	£900	£1,600	£740	£1,330

*neighbouring authorities charges could be subject to further increases from 1st April 2017.

2.3 Waste Services

Waste Services are proposing to increase their fees & charges in line with guidance with the following two exceptions:

Replacement Grey bins -

Charges for the administration and delivery of replacement grey bins were suspended during the slim bin roll out. The charge was reintroduced at a rate of £20 at the end of January and it is therefore recommended that the charge remains at £20 for 2017/18.

Bulky Waste Collection Charge –

Bulky Waste Collections are currently charged at a rate of £30 for the removal of up to 5 bulky items. This price has been in place for 2 years and it is recommended to maintain the same charge in 2017/18.

Trade Waste –

It is recommended that trade waste collection charges are increased by 2% (to the nearest pound) to cover increased waste collection and disposal charges.

To encourage the recycling of trade waste it is recommended that charges for trade waste recycling bins remain at the current rate.

2.4 Regulatory Services

Licensing fees are reviewed and set annually on 1st October on a cost recovery basis and so proposed fees remain as set out in the Licensing Fees Review 2016/17 report presented to Executive Cabinet Member on 16 October 2016.

2.5 Depot Garage

It is proposed to maintain MOT prices at their current level to remain competitive with other suppliers. Increases may result in reduced volume and would incur costs of updating signs and published literature.

2.6 Bowling Greens

For a significant number of years teams playing on Council greens in an evening, in leagues, have paid 'per team', whilst the afternoon users (mainly pensioners) buy individual permits and then play socially and in teams. This does mean some discrepancy between the amount that individuals are paying if they play in an evening (for 2016 approx. £21.50 per player per season) rather than in an afternoon (for 2016 £12.60 per player per season). As part of ongoing discussions with representatives of the Bowling Leagues and the local representative of the Crown Green Bowling Association (the governing body for the sport) it was proposed that the current arrangement be altered. It is proposed that all users will pay an individual fee to bowl on Council greens during the period that they are open (April – September). Following consultation with their member clubs the representatives have agreed that a fee of £20 per person be proposed for the 2017 season.

2.7 Housing Services

All fees and charges relating to Housing Services are to be increased by the guidance 1%.

The Smoke and Carbon Monoxide (England) Regulations 2015 require local authorities to enforce implementation of the requirements through the issue of remedial notices to non-complying landlords. Where remedial notices are not complied with local authorities can issue a fine. From April 2017 the fines will be set as follows:

1 st offence	£1,000
2 nd offence	£2,000
subsequent offences	£5,000

3 CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion it is proposed that increases in fees and charges relating to the services highlighted within this report should differ from 1% guidance included within the budget.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services is asked to approve the proposals relating to fees and charges to take effect from 1st April 2017