

ENVIRONMENT CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 94

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Fees & Charges 2011-12
Date of Meeting: 3 February 2011
Report of: Strategic Director, Place
Contact Officer: Name: Christina Liassides Tel: 29-2036
Austen Hunter 29-2245
E-mail: christina.liassides@brighton-hove.gov.uk
austen.hunter@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Key Decision: No
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report sets out fees and charges for 2011-12 which were not presented in the December 2010 report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the additional fees and charges for 2011- 12, as set out in the report, be agreed.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 On reviewing the fees and charges that were agreed by Environment Cabinet Member on 23 December 2010, additional charges have been identified which should be included in the Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges. This report sets out the proposed additional fees.
- 3.2 The highways fees and charges proposed here are either a new charge or require a rise greater than the inflationary element for 2011-12.
- 3.3 The parking fees relate to three corrections in relation to the overall on street inflationary rise and in relation to times of operation.

New licence fee for 1 day skips

- 3.4 The Highway Act 1980 requires the local authority to licence skips and scaffolds on the public highway. We already charge for 7-day licences and 28 day licences. However we have never charged for 1 day licences even though the licence needs to be processed in exactly the same way as licences for longer periods.

- 3.5 The numbers of 1 day skips are increasing. In 2008-09 we licensed 196. In 2009-10 we licensed 285. To date 364 have been issued this financial year.
- 3.6 If this trend continues we are looking at licensing over 750 next year. A small administration fee would help offset the costs to this department for processing such licences.
- 3.7 Calculating the time taken and the relative costs of 7 day and 28 day licences, a charge of £5 would be sufficient to cover our costs.

Increase Section 50 Road Opening Charge

- 3.8 This charge is for developers or individuals who wish to dig up the public highway for construction or other works. These requests are processed and the works overseen by the council's Streetworks team. The process relates to Section 50 of the New Roads and Streetworks Act 1991.
- 3.9 The proposal is to increase the fees from £195 to £300 for existing plant/road openings and to increase the fee from £302 to £400 for new plant/road openings.
- 3.10 The increase will better reflect officers' time spent approving and overseeing these works and is comparable with other authorities.

Parking fees

- 3.11 The 1 hour tariff in controlled parking zone C to change from £1.60 to £1.70, as part of the overall on street inflationary increase.
- 3.12 The proposed introduction of a 12hr tariff band in all areas would not fit with enforcement hours. It is therefore proposed that the 11 hours tariff be retained. To meet the overall inflationary increase it is proposed to change the 11 hour tariff band in all areas from £4.50 to £4.70.
- 3.13 School permits quarterly fee (currently £25) to be changed to £33, in line with change to the annual fee.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 No specific consultation was undertaken in relation to this report, however the Budget Update and Budget Strategies Report presented to Cabinet on 10th December 2010 did anticipate these fees and charges.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The effect of the additional fees and charges mentioned above was incorporated in the Budget Update and Budget Strategies Report which was presented to Cabinet on 10th December 2010.

Finance Officer Consulted: Karen Brookshaw

Date: 18/01/11

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 Fees must be set in accordance with the requirements of the legislation under which they are charged. Council fees and charges should generally be set at a level reasonably expected to cover the cost of providing the service and should not be used to raise revenue.

Lawyer consulted: Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 18/01/11

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 An objective of the proposals is to ensure a fair and consistent citywide approach.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 There are no direct risk and opportunity management implications arising from this report.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The council's financial position impacts on levels of council tax and service levels and therefore has citywide implications.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The alternative is not to introduce these fees and charges but this would mean that the council will not offset costs directly incurred in providing a highway service or achieve consistency in parking charges.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To regularise the fees and charges for 2011-12 as proposed in this report.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents In Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None