

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **16 JULY 2019** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 12**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)**

SUBJECT: **FEES AND CHARGES**

- RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**
- (1) That Cabinet approves the fees and charges documented in Appendix A to the report;
 - (2) That Cabinet approves the Consumer Price Index, including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH), as the annual inflation index to be used for uplifting fees and charges where it is appropriate to do so (or market rate comparable/choice where applicable) along with the proposed inflationary implementation period documented in Appendix A;
 - (3) That Cabinet support further work to establish whether full cost recovery (direct and indirect cost recovery) is being achieved for all services, where it is permissible for them to do so and/or comparable market rates are applies;
 - (4) That Cabinet approve a three year staged approach to achieving full cost recovery (or market price comparison) for all services where it is permissible for them to do so;
 - (5) That Cabinet approve a further review of the current Income Generation Policy, with a view to developing a policy framework for income generation to include a consistent charging and cost recovery structure;

- (6) That Cabinet approve the annual review of fees and charges format and request an annual report in July of each year, setting out the proposed fees and charges for all services, which will be introduced from 1st October of the same year; and
- (7) That Cabinet notes the additional income projects identified in Appendix B to the report and approves the project commencement dates for each.

DECISION:

As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION:

As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:**

The Income Generation Policy was previously endorsed in October 2017.

It is proposed that the annual review of fees and charges is reported to Cabinet in July each year to ensure appropriate accountability.

For the purposes of transparency, a detailed list of all the fees and charges applied by the Council will, going forward, be published.

The schedule of fees and charges (Appendix A) has been considered by the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th July 2019, with feedback to be provided to Cabinet.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Additional income generated through fees and charges, and the income projects, will be tracked and monitored against the income target for 2019/20. Failure to achieve the income target will lead to a budget shortfall, which may lead to funding from alternative sources being required.

Whilst further work is required to calculate income projections for all the proposed

fee/charge increases from 1st October 2019, some indicative figures have been calculated for reference.

It is proposed to raise the charge for the garden waste collection service by between £2 and £5 per season, depending on the chosen payment method and the date of payment is received by the Council. This reflects the rising cost of delivering the service and will increase the projected income levels by between £70,000 and £130,000 per year.

The proposed charge for the new Food/Drink Ceremony Packages under Registration Services has been projected to generate additional income in the region of £580 in 2019/20 and £850 in 2020/21.

The new charge for the transfer of grave ownership administration is yet to be confirmed. However, comparable charges in other Councils varies from £30 to £55 for this service. Based on current service demand, implementing a £30 charge for this service would generate in the region of £15,600 per annum and a £55 charge £28,600 per annum.

Further work is required to verify that the services identified as operating at cost recovery in Appendix A (those highlighted as amber) are recovering the full costs of service delivery, where it is permissible for them to do so. That is both the direct and indirect costs associated with service delivery. This work will ensure due diligence and will be undertaken by Finance Managers and the Income Generation and Marketing Manager.

Discretionary services, where the Council has a power but not a duty to provide the service, are most at risks. Achieving cost recovery wherever possible for these services is therefore a necessity for service sustainability. Where the charge applied for

these services does not cover the cost of service delivery, or it is not permitted to, this raises strategic questions for the Council to consider. For example, should these services continue to be provided? If so how will they be funded? If they are to be subsidised where will the funding come from?

As outlined in the Income Generation Policy, it is proposed that the annual review of fees and charges is overseen by Programme Boards, with any changes implemented from 1st October each year following reports to Cabinet in July.

Where in-year charges are required to fees and charges, i.e. statutory fee changes or other extenuating circumstances, these should be made in line with the delegated authority process (respective Chief Officer and Cabinet Member).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

17th July 2019

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)
