

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director (Finance) (Introduced by Executive Member (Resources))	Executive Cabinet	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2022

## 2022/23 Fees and Charges

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Yes
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Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	<b>Significant impact on 2 or more council wards</b>
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### Purpose of the Report

1. This report sets out the current position around fees and charges and proposals for 2022/23.

### Recommendations to Cabinet

2. To note the current levels of budgeted fees and charges and the issues specific to these;
3. To approve an increase in the charge for garden waste, from £30 to £32.50;
4. To approve a general increase of 4.9% in the fees for 2022/23; given that the rate of CPI is currently running at 5.1%, and RPI at 7.1%, the recommended uplift is less than inflation and is limited to the services listed in Table 3 of Appendix 1.
5. To approve the full list of fees and charges for upload onto the Council website.

### Reasons for recommendations

6. To ensure that fees and charges are set at appropriate levels and are publicly available.

### Other options considered and rejected

7. None

## Executive summary

8. This report sets out the key fees and charges budgets and the income generated from each.

## Corporate priorities

9. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: (please bold all those applicable):

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	✓	A strong local economy	✓
Clean, safe and healthy communities	✓	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	✓

## Background to the report

10. During the pandemic, central government introduced a fees and charges compensation scheme for local authorities, covering the period from April 2020 to June 2021; this provided partial compensation for the losses that councils had incurred in the level of fees and charges earned. In many areas, the level of fees and charges income received in 20/21 and 21/22 has not been representative of that earned in previous years, and there is still a degree of uncertainty over the level that will be achieved going forward as we continue through the Covid-19 crisis. However, whilst we have seen indications that the majority of fees and charges are beginning to return to 'normal' levels, there remains some uncertainty with the emergence and rapid spread of the Omicron variant of the virus.

## Fees and Charges Position

11. Appendix 1 details the key fees and charges budgets across a number of categories. It should be noted however, that the tables are not exhaustive or exclusive but give an indication of the core fees involved.
12. Table 1 provides details of those charges over which the Council has no control in setting the amount that can be charged. The largest of these relates to planning application fees. Whilst the fee is not within local control, it is the volume of the applications which can significantly impact upon this budget and the income generated, and it can vary significantly depending on the size of these..
13. Table 2 illustrates the specific fees and charges that generate an income of greater than £50k. The largest of these relate to the Council's major projects at Market Walk, Strawberry Fields, Primrose Gardens, Cotswold and other projects (including TVS). Outside of these charges, the biggest income streams relate to Garden Waste, Car Parking and Building Control.
14. Table 3 shows the fees and charges that generally have been increased by a given percentage, or through an inflationary uplift, as opposed to being subject to a full, formal review. The increases across these can vary, but it is proposed to apply a general increase to these of 4.9%, which is lower than the current rates of CPI (5.1%) and RPI (7.1%), to

support the residents of the borough during the pandemic; as shown in the table 3 this change equates to increased revenue of £10k

15. Table 4 illustrates the more significant areas which impact upon the amount of income generated through changes in charges. An update on these charges is below:

- Other Investment Rentals and Leases – these are negotiated on a case by case basis to ensure maximum benefit. Income has remained largely stable across these categories as most of it relates to the TVS lease income.
- Proposals around potential charges at Astley Hall will be brought forward in a separate report.
- Market options are to be considered separately in the coming months
- Street Names and Numbering – these charges are currently under review but is forecast to be £14k against an existing budget of £20k
- Strawberry Fields and Market Walk - changes are negotiated on a case by case basis. After reductions during the pandemic, the number of tenants has shown a steady rise as recovery continues.
- Primrose Gardens - charges were set upon opening and are due to be reviewed alongside the new Tatton extra care scheme in the new year.
- Garden Waste collection – the proposal is for an increase in the charge from £30 to £32.50 per annum, which represents an increase of 8.3% and equates to approximately £65k. This would be the first increase since charges were introduced back in 2017, representing an average annual increase of less than 1.4%. The proposed increase in the subscription charge recognises the increased cost of delivering the service, which has come under pressure not least over the last year due to factors such as a shortage of HGV drivers. In comparison to the proposed increase in the subscription charge, inflation has increased by 15.4% over the same period. Chorley Council's charges will remain comparable to those of the other Lancashire Districts, many of which charge £35 per annum.

### **Climate change and air quality**

16. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

### **Equality and diversity**

17. N/A

### **Risk**

18. As detailed in the report

### **Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer**

19. The financial implications are contained within this report.

### **Comments of the Monitoring Officer**

20. None

## Background documents

There are no background papers to this report.

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – Fees and Charges Tables

Appendix 2 - Detailed Fees and Charges List (to be updated following above approvals)

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