



PART B:	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
REPORT TO:	COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
DATE:	26 NOVEMBER 2009
REPORT OF THE:	CORPORATE DIRECTOR (s151) PAUL CRESSWELL
TITLE OF REPORT:	FEES AND CHARGES
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed fees and charges for 2010/2011 for services under the remit of this committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council is recommended to approve the following Fees and Charges:

- (i) Septic Tanks and Taxi Licensing (Annex 1);
- (ii) Refuse Collection Including Trade Waste (Annex 2);
- (iii) Car Parks (Annex 3);
- (iv) Environmental Health (Annex 4); and
- (v) Ryecare (Annex 5).

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The fees and charges are important part of the Council's budget strategy, the recommendations take into account the guidance from the Policy and Resources Committee.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 The significant risk is that the charges as proposed do not achieve the consequent increases in income due to adverse effect on demand. This is mitigated by consideration of the factors and demand analysis for the relevant charges. Where

appropriate target increases are not recommended.

REPORT

5.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 A report on the budget strategy for 2010/2011 was presented to the Policy and Resources Committee on the 1 October 2009. At that meeting the parameters for increases in fees and charges set a target of 4%, however officers would consider whether such increases could adversely affect income overall in making their recommendations.
- 5.2 This report sets out the proposals for:
- Septic Tanks and Taxi Licensing (Annex 1)
 - Refuse Collection Including Trade Waste (Annex 2)
 - Car Parks (Annex 3)
 - Environmental Health (Annex 4)
 - Ryecare (Annex 5)
- 5.3 Members will be aware that the reduction in VAT to 15% introduced on 1 December 2008 is presently planned to cease on the 1 January 2010 and therefore some increase in charges reflects this change.

6.0 POLICY CONTEXT

- 6.1 This report supports existing Council Policy and the budget strategy.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation on the proposals has not taken place.

8.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 8.1 The Annexes to this report set out the proposed charges for 2010/2011 for the services listed.
- 8.2 The following charges have not been increased in line with the parameters set by Policy and Resources Committee:

Taxi Charges

A price freeze is the recommended option for this service in view of the significant price increases experienced when the policy to achieve cost neutral service was introduced together with current economic climate and 8% drop in licence numbers (reduced from 181 to 171 licences processed a year). The Policy has been amended to seek to achieve most efficient/effective service with minimum cost to council tax payer. Financial impact of not applying 4% min increase is £1,500.

Trade Waste and Refuse

Increased disposal costs by 8.5% as advised by NYCC and other charges increased by 5%, these are the maximum charges allowing flexibility whilst still remaining competitive.

Car Parking Charges

The proposed charges for 2010/11 have been calculated on the basis that there is no increase to prices in Malton car parks. The proposals will generate increased income of approx £27,000. Increasing the Malton charges in line with others would generate an additional £4,000 and meet the target increase. There are significant differences in the parking statistics comparing Malton with Helmsley, Pickering and Kirkbymoorside. Since free parking was introduced in Malton Market by the Estate in May there has been a downward trend in demand and usage in the Council operated pay and display car parks in Malton. However for the other market towns an analysis of car parking activity for the period April to September and the same period last year shows encouraging increases in turnover (averaging 20%) mainly due to increased demand in ticket sales for 2 hour parking. The proposal not to increase the car parking charges in Malton would be that this is on the basis that concessions are no longer given for one-off events as is currently the case i.e. £1.50 all day charges for Wentworth Street.

The prices are also assuming VAT at 17.5% in 2010/11 and are set to reflect appropriate coinage denominations. Last year the reduced VAT reduction was passed onto car park users with no increase to 1hr and 2hr ticket prices. There has been no increase to 1hr prices since 05/06 and 2hr prices since 06/07. The impact of the VAT change is to make some of the increases look high.

Pest Control Charges

Due to last years poor demand and the commercial pressures from competition it is recommended that the charges for wasps be reduced from £34.78 to £34.04 (net) for when VAT increases again to retain the gross charge at £40 and similarly the charge for mice, fleas and squirrels (up to 3 visits) be reduced from £42.61 to £41.70(net) to retain a gross charge of £49. The Council service is at a commercial disadvantage to other suppliers in that the charges are published on the Internet which the competitors uses in setting their charges to undercut the Council's service. By retaining the price the Council will remain competitive and the reassurance of quality may give the Council a more competitive edge. If the charge is too high the callers will either self treat with the multitude of products now available on the market or call someone else.

Ryecare

Increases in Ryecare charges are proposed at 2%. Ryecare charges for 2009/10 increased by 4% which resulted in some service users deciding that they were unable to afford to continue receiving the service. It is anticipated that any increase which is substantially above the RPI may result in further service users deciding not to continue receiving the service. In addition there are now other opportunities available to potential service users which can provide a service which may be more tailored to their particular needs.

9.0 IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The following implications have been identified:

- a) Financial
As detailed within the report and Annexes.
- b) Legal
There are no additional Legal Issues from the decision in this report.
- c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental, Crime &

Disorder)

There are no significant additional implications of the proposals.

Paul Cresswell
Corporate Director (s151)

Author: Paul Cresswell, Corporate Director (s151)
Telephone No: 01653 600666 ext: 214
E-Mail Address: paul.cresswell@ryedale.gov.uk

Background Papers:

None.

Background Papers are available for inspection at:

N/a