



PART B:	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE:	3 DECEMBER 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) Development Management (Annex B); and
- (ii) Land Charges (Annex C)

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.
- 4.2 The Risk Matrix is attached at Annex A.

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:
- Development Management (Annex B)
 - Land Charges (Annex C)

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:

Planning

The discretionary fees for charging for Development Enquiry forms and pre-application advice are recommended not to exceed those set in 2009/2010. This is to encourage potential applicants and developers to continue to engage with the Council during a period of difficult market conditions for the development industry and to mitigate the risk of householders proceeding with alterations to their properties without obtaining the appropriate written advice.

Land Charges

Since the setting of Land Charge fees for 2009/2010 the Council's in-house service has been successful in gaining business back from personal search companies with approximately 75% of searches being carried out in-house. However in the light of current market conditions it is recommended that there is no increase in the overall fees set for Land Charges in 2010/2011. It is considered that the application of any further increases would be likely to undermine the competitiveness of the in-house service in relation to that provided by the personal search companies.

Members are requested to note minor changes to the fee schedule in Annex C. These relate to the Official Search in Register (LLC1) which is proposed to rise to £22. A commensurate reduction in fee levels is recommended elsewhere in the schedule in order to ensure that the full Standard Search charge does not exceed that set in 2009/2010.

Members are also recommended to give delegated authority to the Corporate Director (s151) for further minor revisions to fees charged for the individual CON 29 questions referred to on the schedule.

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.

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Background Papers:
None.

Background Papers are available for inspection at:
N/a