



REPORT TO: COMMUNITY SERVICES & LICENSING COMMITTEE

DATE: 27th NOVEMBER 2008

HEAD OF SERVICE: ENVIRONMENT

REPORTING OFFICER: STREETSCENE FINANCE MANAGER
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HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT MANAGER
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SUBJECT: FEES AND CHARGES 2009/10
STREETSCENE & HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present to Members for approval the proposed fees and charges for Commercial Services budget headings in 2009/10.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Full Council be recommended to approve the proposed charges as follows:
- a) for septic tanks and taxi licence fees detailed in Annex 1,
 - b) for refuse collection services, in particular the trade waste service, as detailed in Annex 2,
 - c) for car park charges that are detailed in Annex 3,
 - d) for Health and Environmental Services that are detailed in Annex 4.

3.0 REASONS SUPPORTING DECISION

- 3.1 At the October meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee Members' it was agreed to adopt a budget strategy, which achieves cashable efficiency gains in order to balance the budget.
- 3.2 Wherever possible the revenue budgets for 2009/10 are being prepared to maximise fees and charges income and the proposals contained in this report seek to charge competitively the cost of providing services, in accordance with existing policies and taking account of current demand levels trends.
- 3.3 In accordance with the agreed budget strategy, where applicable, all fees and charges proposed for 2009/10 include an increase of at least 4%. The prices have been set on the basis of recovering the cost of providing the particular service, at a level the market can tolerate whilst maximising income for the Council and in some areas new charging initiatives have been identified and included for next year.

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3.4 The proposed fees for the taxi licensing service have been set in line based on recommendations of the Taxi Licensing Member Task Group to increase fees by 10% in 2009/10 and then review them again next year, with a view to still achieve a cost neutral service but over a longer period of time.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Members are requested to consider the increase of non-statutory fees and charges for the financial year commencing 1 April 2009. The schedules at Annex 1, 2, 3 and 4 details the current charges together with the proposed charges for 2009/10.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT

5.1 The proposed fees and charges have been prepared in accordance with the Council's budget strategy for 2009/10.

6.0 REPORT

6.1 The services covered in this report are:

- Septic tank emptying
- Taxi licensing
- Domestic and trade refuse collection
- Car parking
- Environmental Health

6.2 In accordance with the agreed budget strategy process of at least 4% increase has been applied to all fees and charges.

7.0 STREETSCENE- Fees and Charges:

SEPTIC TANKS (Annex 1)

The price of emptying a domestic septic tank has been increased by 4% to £182 (from £175) plus disposal costs (paid to Yorkshire Waster Authority).

TAXI LICENSING CHARGES (Annex 1)

All Licence fees have been increased by 10% for 2009/10 in accordance with the proposed Taxi Licensing Member Task Group recommendation.

This 10% recommended increase only applies next year and the Member Task Group plan to review the taxi licensing fees again prior to setting future increases, ultimately to achieve a cost neutral service over a period of time.

DOMESTIC & TRADE REFUSE COLLECTION CHARGES (Annex 2)

The proposed charges have been determined with the overall aim being to ensure that the service operates at a nil cost to the council taxpayer.

In 2009/10 the proposed charges have been increased as follows:

Trade

- Ryedale's charges for Hire and Collection have been increased by 5% across each of the bands.
- The disposal charges have been increased by 10%, in accordance with the increases NYCC will implement next year.
- Overall for 2009/10 our customers will see an increase in their trade waste prices of 7.5%.

It should be noted that the prices are still competitive when compared to the market.

All RDC charges are the maximum charges, allowing officers flexibility to negotiate trade waste contract prices as required.

Domestic

- special collections, bulky household waste and sale of liners have been increased by a minimum of 4%.

Proposed new charges from April 2009 are: -

- New/replacement bins and boxes delivered to domestic properties, £25 and £6 respectively.

We currently deliver approximately 1200 bins and 840 green boxes per year to all domestic properties, income generated by introducing a charge would be approximately £35,000.

Options: -

- Apply charge to all requests of equipment, new and replacement, for every domestic resident. Income generated as stated above £35,000
- Apply charge to developers of new builds only, currently these average 50 new properties per year for delivery of two bins and one box, income generated approximately £2800, however potential new development could substantially increase this figure (ie -Est £168,000 - based on 3000 new props)

Members are requested to consider the increases and approve the proposed for 2009/10.

CAR PARK CHARGES (Annex 3)

A 4% increase has been applied to all car-parking charges and these are detailed in Annex 3 for information. Benchmarking indicates that with the exception of York and Scarborough, Ryedale is expensive in the 1-2 hr price bands (prices unchanged or below 2005 tariff levels) but remains reasonable for all day parking and the intermediate bands.

Ryedale remains unique in its offer of a substantially discounted residents permit.

The level of excess charge fines has remained the same, as our current charges are already high when compared to other authorities.

The main effect of the increase in charges is: -

- Up to 1hr tariff remains unchanged
- 10p increase in tariffs up to 6hrs
- 20p increase in tariff over 6hrs
- Maximum increase on permits is £7.00 on a long stay permit gone from £170 to £177
- Smartcards increased by 40p

- 8.0 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT - Fees and Charges 2009/10 (Annex 4)**
8.1 All fees and charges have been increased by approximately 4% in line with the Budget Strategy, with two variations detailed below.

PEST CONTROL

Wasps – This is a very competitive market, therefore it is proposed to only increase the charge from £40 (34.04) to £41 (34.89) representing a 2.5% increase.

HEALTH LICENCES

Control of Sex Establishments – A number of local authorities have received representations from the trade who consider that their charges are excessive. As a result a review has been undertaken of the charges, to ensure they can be defended and also ensure that full cost to the authority is recovered. It is recommended that that the application for a new establishment be reduced from £6,000 to £4,000 and the annual licence renewal be reduced from £4,000 to £3,600. The cost of the Transfer fee to remain the same.

There is no impact on the budget of these proposals as Ryedale does not have any licensed sex establishments

9.0 OPTIONS

- 9.1 Members are requested to approve the proposed fees and charges for 2009/10.

10.0 RESULT OF OPTION APPRAISAL

- 10.1 The proposed increases to fees and charges are necessary to maximise income and satisfy budgetary requirements for 2009/10.

11.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The increases applied represent a total increase in income, which has been accounted for in the setting of the 2009/10 budget.

12.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 12.1 As with any increase in price, consideration has been given to the effect this may have on the demand for the service. Comparisons with others to ensure prices are competitive and fair have also been considered to limit the risk of receiving negative responses from customers. The Council has also carefully considered the budget strategy process for 2009/10 to ensure the necessary financial platform exists and has agreed in principle to increase charges, which has been reflected in this report.

13.0 CONCLUSION

- 13.1 In line with the Councils budget strategy for 2009/10 the fees and charges proposed in this report have been increased by at least 4%, which is necessary to prepare a realistic budget, and it is recommended that these be approved with effect from 1st April 2009.

OFFICER CONTACT: Please contact Beckie Bennett, Streetscene FinanceManager or Steven Richmond , Health and Environment Manager if you require any further information on the contents of this report. Beckie Bennett can be contacted at Malton Depot, Telephone No 01653 600666 ext 483 and e-mail beckie.bennett@ryedale.gov.uk. Steven Richmond can be contacted on 01643 600666 ext 247 and e-mail: steven.richmond@ryedale.gov.uk

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CORPORATE POLICY APPRAISAL FORM *(One for each Option)*

Annex A

Policy Context	Impact Assessment	Impact +ve -Ve Neutral
Community Plan Themes <i>(Identify any/all that apply)</i>	Strong and safe communities Ensuring efficient and effective provision of services	+ve
Corporate Objectives/Priorities <i>(Identify any/all that apply)</i>	Safe and inclusive communities Efficient and effective high quality services	+ve
Service Priorities	To ensure costs are recovered through pricing To ensure a cost neutral taxi licensing service To provide efficient, dependable and integrated services	+ve
Financial	Meet the budget strategy requirements	+ve
Procurement Policies	N/a	
Asset Management Policies	N/a	
LA21 & Environment Charter	N/a	
Community Safety	The current policy for the taxi licensing service potentially conflicts with community safety priorities and issues	-ve
Equalities	N/a	
E-Government	N/a	
Risk Assessment	See report	
Estimated Timescale for achievement	2009/10	