

# PLACES SCRUTINY PANEL

29 January 2015

## PLACES DIRECTORATE FEES AND CHARGES 2015/16

### Report of the Director for Places

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider the Places Directorate fees and charges for 2015/16.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 **That the Places Scrutiny Panel recommends to Cabinet the approval of the fees and charges for the Places Directorate set out in Appendix 1.**

#### 3. PLANNING POLICY

3.1 Fees and charges for Planning Policy have been increased by 1.99% and rounded, in line with Council Policy. New fees and charges have been added for the new Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans documents adopted over the last 12 months, as appropriate.

#### 4. CULTURE AND LEISURE

4.1 Fees and charges for Culture & Leisure services have been increased by 1.99% and rounded, in line with Council Policy.

4.2 Registration Service Fees have been subject to a review, and have been amended on the basis of the findings that there has been under-charging in most of the discretionary areas. The review paper is included as Appendix 2 to this report.

#### 5. OAKHAM ENTERPRISE PARK

5.1 Rent and service charges are set in line with independent valuations undertaken prior to the site going live and ongoing comparison with the local commercial property market. Leases provide for a three year rent review as appropriate.

#### 6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

6.1 No fees and charges apply to economic development and tourism.

#### 7. PROPERTY

7.1 Charges for external organisations using the Council's meeting rooms outside of normal office hours remain unchanged. The primary function for

these rooms is for Council official business, but the rooms are occasionally utilised by local charities and community groups for meetings and activities.

## **8. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL**

- 8.1 Planning application fees are set nationally.
- 8.2 The fees for land charges must be on a cost recovery basis. A time recording exercise has been undertaken to ensure our fees accurately reflect the work undertaken. Some redundant fee categories have been removed with others added to reflect new regulations.

## **9. HIGHWAYS**

- 9.1 Fees and charges for Highways related services have been increased by 1.99% and rounded, in line with Council Policy.
- 9.2 New Roads & Streetworks Act fees have remained at a fixed National rate.

## **10. PARKING**

- 10.1 Parking penalty charges are statutory charges set by the Secretary of State. They have not appeared on our fees and charges document before. In acknowledging that other statutory fees are listed, this oversight has been corrected.
- 10.2 Residents and Dispensation permits (for building contractors) fees are reviewed and set by Cabinet within the annual parking reviews. They are included on the fees document for the first time.

## **11. TRANSPORT**

- 11.1 The home to school, post 16 and English National Concessionary travel pass fees have been transferred from the People Directorate fees and charges list. This reflects the transfer of transport operations from the People Directorate to Places Directorate which took place in 2013.
- 11.2 The home to school transport policy states that fees and charges will rise in line with the previous year's council tax increase. However, it is proposed to increase them by 1.99% in line with other services.

## **12. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

- 12.1 New regulations under Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013 that came into effect on 1st October 2013 means that Local authorities are now able to charge for the additional duties relating to deposits under S31 of the Highways Act. This relates to land owners making declarations to prevent the public claiming rights over permissive paths. The time required to process an application depend largely on the extent and patterns of the land for which an application is being made and is reflected in the different sums proposed for different sized parcels of land, which is in line with surrounding authorities.

### 13. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

- 13.1 The majority of fees and charges have been increased by 1.99% in line with Council policy.
- 13.2 Some public protection and licensing fees have been increased by 10% where they are significantly lower than the average of our neighbours (Melton, Harborough and South Kesteven).
- 13.3 Some Pest control fees are being increased to reflect the actual cost of delivering the service. Neighbouring authorities typically charge £20 to £30 per visit. Our charges cover up to 3 visits.
- 13.4 New charges for statutory fees for Petroleum Licensing have been introduced.

### 14. RISK MANAGEMENT

<b>RISK</b>	<b>IMPACT</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>Time</b>	Low	Fees and charges need to be approved in order to be effective from April 2015.
<b>Viability</b>	Low	The proposed fees and charges are consistent with the legislation that underpins them and are considered to be reasonable in relation to the costs of providing the services to which they apply.
<b>Finance</b>	Low	Fees and charges are an important element within the overall budget. Income budgets have been updated, where appropriate, where managers consider that changes to fees and charges will have a material impact on the budget. The changes proposed are not expected to generate a significant increase in income.
<b>Profile</b>	Medium	For the areas under review, increases in fees and charges may attract some interest locally.
<b>Equality And Diversity</b>	Low	An EIA questionnaire has been completed and no issues were identified. An EIA will not be required.

**Background Papers**  
None

**Report Author**  
D Brown & P Phillipson  
Tel No: (01572) 722577  
e-mail: enquiries@rutland.gov.uk

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