

Cherwell District Council
Budget Planning Committee

29 November 2016

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| Fees and Charges 2017/18 - Update |
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Report of the Chief Finance Officer

This report is public

Purpose of report

To provide members of the Budget Planning Committee with an update on the Council's proposed fees and charges for 2017/18

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To note the contents of the report.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 This Committee has the responsibility of recommending a budget for consideration to Executive and fees and charges are a fundamental part of the process to develop the budget each year.
- 2.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the latest position on fees and charges, but it should be noted that this process is not yet completed and work is continuing on fees and charges. A further report showing the final position will be included with the final budget proposals.

3.0 Fees and Charges 2016/17

- 3.1 The current proposed fees and charges for 2017/18 are attached as appendix 1.
- 3.2 Although fees and charges produce significant income for the Council, there are factors that influence the Council's ability to set fees and charges: Some are set by statute, others are set to break-even and some are outsourced to third parties.
- 3.3 This leaves the Council with fewer discretionary fees and charges to set, and this, in turn, reduces the impact on the overall budget.

Statutory fees and charges

Certain fees and charges are set by Government, and are outside the Council's control, for example planning application fees, and others, such as fees and charges related to gambling are subject to review by the Gambling Commission and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Requirement to break-even

These are fees and charges which are set under regulations that place a requirement to break-even on the Council, for example building control fees and licensing. In these cases the charges are reviewed following completion of the expenditure budget so that a full assessment of break-even can be undertaken.

Fees and charges retained by third parties

The agreements that the Council has for leisure management include provisions to allow the management company to retain the income collected. In this case increases in fees and charges are linked to RPI in January each year.

Discretionary fees and charges

These are the fees and charges which the Council is free to set without restriction from legislation or regulation. Of the total income from fees and charges shown on the attached sheets, which exclude statutory charges, totalling £800,000, approximately half is discretionary. This is made up largely of sports and leisure and waste fees and charges.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 Members are requested to note the content of this report.

5.0 Consultation

There is a requirement to consult on the draft budget and this consultation will take place as part of the budget setting process.

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: To not note the report but members will not be aware of the proposed fees and charges for 2017/18 if they choose to take this option.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 The financial implications stemming from this report are shown in appendix 1.

Comments checked by:
George Hill, Corporate Finance Manager
george.hill@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

Legal Implications

- 7.2 The Council has to set a balanced budget each year and fees and charges are part of this process this report provides the updated position to enable the Council to meet this requirement.

Comments checked by:
Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance
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Risk Management

- 7.3 There are no specific risk management implications of this report.

Comments checked by:
Ed Bailey, Corporate Performance Manager, 01295 221605
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Equality and Diversity

- 7.4 Impact assessments were carried out in advance of setting the 2015-16 budget.

Comments checked by:
Caroline French, Corporate Policy Officer, 01295 221586
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8.0 Decision Information

Key Decision

Financial Threshold Met: **Not applicable**

Community Impact Threshold Met: **Not applicable**

Wards Affected **All**

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

This links to the Council's priority of Sound Budgets and a Customer Focussed Council.

Lead Councillor

Councillor Ken Atack, Lead Member for Financial Management.

Document Information

| Appendix No | Title |
|---------------------|---|
| Appendix 1 | Proposed fees and Charges for 2017/18 |
| Background Papers | |
| None | |
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