

**Cherwell District Council**  
**Budget Planning Committee**

**7 October 2014**

<b>Fees and Charges Review 2015-16</b>
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**Report of the Interim Head of Finance and Procurement**

This report and Appendices 1(i) (ii) (iii) (iv) are public  
The Appendix 1(v) to this report is exempt from publication by virtue of paragraphs 1, 2  
and 3 of Schedule 12A of Local Government Act 1972

### **Purpose of the Report**

The report summarises the proposed fees and charges to be built into the 2015-16 revenue budget for council products and services.

### **1. Recommendations**

The meeting is recommended to:

- 1.1 Consider the contents of this report.

### **2. Introduction**

- 2.1. Fees and charges form an important element in the annual budgeting setting process. This report provides Budget Planning Committee with information on the proposed fees and charges for 2015-16.

### **3. Report Details**

- 3.1. The budget setting process for 2015-16 includes several different work streams to identify savings to balance the budget. These include efficiency targets and building blocks. Within each of these work streams will be savings that can be attributed to an increase in income from fees and charges, whereas other savings will be due reduced costs or increases in grants or third party income.
- 3.2. Details of the proposed 2015-16 charges for Council services are included in the tables in Appendix 1. The tables have been enhanced in line with recommendations made by Committee at its meeting in March 2014.

- 3.3. Appendix 1(i) provides a schedule of Licensing fees and charges which have remained unchanged from 2014-15. Licensing fees and charges are not legally permitted to exceed the cost of provision. A review of Licensing income versus expenditure over the last three years is scheduled to take place in December to ensure this balance is maintained.
- 3.4. Appendix 1(iii) provides a schedule of fees and charges at the various sports centres. The charges at Spiceball, Bicester and Ploughley, Kidlington and Woodgreen centres are all set according to their respective management contracts. These state that inflation will be applied in line with RPI as at December 31 which, for the purpose of this report, has been estimated at 2.4%.

## **4. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 4.1. This report is for members' information.

## **5. Consultation**

- 5.1. This report has been prepared following consultation with Heads of Service who have submitted their proposed changes to fees and charges.

## **6. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 6.1. The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.
- 6.2. As this is a report for information and consideration no alternative options have been considered.

## **7. Implications**

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 7.1. These are contained in the body of the report. There are no direct costs or other direct financial implications arising from this report.

Comments checked by: Nicola Jackson, Corporate Finance Manager  
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### **Legal Implications**

- 7.2. Presentation of this report is in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice. Most fees and charges are either statutorily set or are based on recovering the cost to the Council of providing the service.

Comments checked by: Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance  
0300 0030107 [kevin.lane@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.lane@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk)

### **Risk Management**

- 7.3. There are many risks associated with charging for services, for example:

- Charging for services may present a barrier to service use for some people
- Charging may produce negative views/press as it may not be seen as equitable, for example if different areas pay different amounts for the same service, or it may be seen as double taxation
- Charging for a service on a cost recover basis may not be competitive and could affect local businesses

The current economic situation may mean that there is less demand for the services for which we currently charge. The price elasticity of demand is difficult to predict for our services at any time but this is particularly true in a quickly changing economy. The risks are tolerable.

Comments checked by: Louise Tustian, Acting Corporate Performance Manager  
01295 221786 [louise.tustian@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:louise.tustian@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk)

### Equality and Diversity

- 7.4. No impact – although fees and charges may present a barrier to services for people on low incomes, this is unlikely to be a significant problem for the types of service that the Council currently charges for (listed in Appendix 1).

Comments checked by: Louise Tustian, Acting Corporate Performance Manager  
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## 8. Decision Information

**Key Decision:** Not applicable

**Wards Affected** All

**Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework** All

### Lead Councillor

Councillor Ken Attack – Lead Member for Financial Management

### Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Schedule of Fees and Charges 2015-16:
(i)	Licensing
(ii)	Environmental Services
(iii)	Leisure Services
(iv)	Elections
(v) - EXEMPT	Corporate Properties
Background Papers	
Report Author	Paul Sutton, Interim Head of Finance and Procurement Joanne Kaye, Interim Strategic Finance Accountant
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