

Cherwell District Council

Budget Planning Committee

Date of Meeting 19 January 2021

Proposed Fees and Charges for 2021/22

Report of the Director of Finance

This report is public

Purpose of report

To update Budget Planning Committee on the draft Fees and Charges to be set by the Council for 2021/22

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 to note the draft fees and charges schedule for 2021/22

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Executive and Council agree the fees and charges that the Council will introduce each year. This report updates Budget Planning Committee on the proposed fees and charges for 2021/22.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 Cherwell District Council (CDC), like all other local authorities, generates income from fees and charges. CDC operates an underlying assumption within its Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) that income from fees and charges (with the exception of car parking income) will increase by 2% each year. This can be made up from a combination of amending the prices charged and volumes of charges raised.
- 3.2 Within an individual service area there may be a range of services that are charged for. Each individual charge may be adjusted by a figure that varies from 2% depending on the mix of take up of each charge, so long as the overall increase in income from the charges is expected to be 2%.
- 3.3 Where CDC plans to raise income by more than 2% this is included in the budget savings proposals. Budget Planning Committee (BPC) considered the savings

proposals at its meeting on 15 December. The Executive will take into account consultation responses prior to finalising savings proposals that will be included in the overall budget proposal to Council.

3.4 An overview of the key items within the draft fees and charges is:

Communities:

- Car Parking charges – there is a general savings proposal to deliver an additional £0.4m car parking income. The specific car parks that these charges would apply to have not yet been identified. The car parking charges will remain at the 2020/21 levels until a report is brought to Executive to agree any new specific charges required.
- Waste Collection:
 - There is a range of proposed changes ranging from 0% to 50% within Waste Collection.
 - The proposed 50% increase is of £5 for Special Collections of 3 items during “Blitz Week”
 - The proposed largest increase in value is £10.25 for 1,100l bin collections in schools.
 - The largest proposed fee is £410 for 1,100l bin collections in schools.
- Environmental Protection and MOTs
 - All charges are proposed to be frozen, except for a 10p increase in the charge for public conveniences in Banbury and Kidlington.
 - The largest proposed fee is £55 for MOTs to the general public.

Place and Growth:

- Building Planning Fees have not gone up as they were increased as part of the September 2020 revised budget and so the increase had been applied early.
- The largest proposed fee is £1,600 for 5 dwellings.

Regulatory Services:

- Licensing
 - Public Protection, Environmental Health and Licensing fees are proposed to increase between 0% and 6.7%.
 - The proposed 6.7% increase is of £0.25 for single entry copies of a Food Premises Register
 - The largest proposed increase in value is £19 for a Zoo Licence.
 - The largest proposed fee is £1,588 for a Sex Establishment Venue Application.

Customers, Organisational Design and Resources:

- Land Charges
 - All fees proposed to be frozen apart from a Register Search, which would increase by £15 or 30%.
 - The largest proposed fee is £165 for a Full Search

Commercial Development, Assets and Investments

- Uncontested Parish Election charges are proposed to increase by 5% to £40.95.

Public Health and Wellbeing

- NOA and Cooper School
 - Most charges are proposed to increase by 2%.
 - The largest increase is £1.78 for 90 minute senior hockey matches, which would also have the maximum charge of £90.93
 - Charges have been removed for Holiday Hubs.
- Cherwell
 - Most charges are proposed to go up by around 2% with the greatest increase 10.1%.
 - The 10.1% increase of £0.85 is proposed for off-peak Studio Cycling Lessons.
 - The largest fee is £428.70 for annual membership.
- Stratfield Brake and Whitelands Farm
 - Fees are proposed to increase between 0% and 3.3%.
 - The proposed 3.3% increase of £0.05 is for access to the showers.
 - The largest proposed fee is £244.25 to hire a function room all day.
- Woodgreen
 - The proposed change in fees is between 1.3% and 3.2%.
 - The proposed 3.2% increase of £0.05 is for Fit 'N' Fifty Link Classes.
 - The largest proposed fee is £1,835.10 for a wedding in the bowls area.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 BPC is asked to comment on the proposed fees and charges for 2021/22.

5.0 Consultation

None

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: Fees could be set at a lower rate, but this would require alternative savings to be identified.

Option 2: Fees could be set at a higher rate but this may result in reductions in users.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 The fees and charges agreed as part of the budget process will form a key income stream for the Council when it meets to discuss the budget. However, there are no financial implications associated with this report as no decisions are being taken.

Comments checked by:

Michael Furness, Assistant Director of Finance, 01295 221845, michael.furness@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Legal Implications

- 7.2 Fees and charges for discretionary services are restricted to cost recovery by law, meaning that, taking one year with another, the income from charges for each kind of discretionary service should not exceed the costs of provision. Fees and charges cannot therefore be used to make a profit. Where a profit is to be made then a commercial trading vehicle would need to be established for the purpose.

Comments checked by:

Richard Hawtin, Team Leader – Non-contentious, Tel: 01295 221695, Email: richard.hawtin@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Risk Implications

- 7.3 There are no risks associated with this report.

Comments checked by:

Louise Tustian, Head of Insight and Corporate Programmes 01295 221786 Louise.tustian@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Equalities Implications

- 7.4 Any increase to fees and charges may impact on those with more need to use a service, including due to an individual having one or more of the protected characteristics. Changes to fees and charges are proposed after consideration of inflation, service need, bench-marking and market opportunities. Where material service impact has been assessed from changes in charges these will be addressed through the equality impact assessment process that supports decision making on the budget and business planning report.

Comments checked by:

Robin Rogers, Head of Strategy, robin.rogers@cherwell.gov.uk

8.0 Decision Information

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| Key Decision | N/A as not an Executive report |
| Financial Threshold Met: | N/A |
| Community Impact Threshold Met: | N/A |

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

All

Document Information**Appendix number and title**

- Appendix 1 – Draft 2021/22 Fees and Charges

Background papers

None

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