



**Development
Control Committee**

**22 October
2015**

Matter for Decision

Title:

Fees and Charges 2016/17

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Author:

1 Introduction

1.1 This report outlines the proposed fees and charges for areas covered by this Committee for the financial year 2016/17

2 Recommendations

2.1 That members consider and recommend to the Policy, Finance and Development Committee the proposed fees and charges for 2016/17

3 Information

3.1 The Council charges for a number of its services that are provided to the public. All fees and charges are reviewed on an annual basis as part of the budget setting process.

3.2 When setting scales of charges, the following factors are taken into consideration:

- Statutory obligations
- Policies and objectives of the Council
- Inflation and relevant indices
- Local market research and competition (where relevant)
- The impact of price changes on activity level or demand
- Changes in taxation
- Budget position and any associated gap
- The cost of providing the service

3.3 As at July 2015, The Retail Price Index (RPI), which is a measure of inflation, stood at 1%. This has been used as a guide for Heads of Service when considering the 2016/17 increase.

3.4 The Development Control Section does not feel there is any scope for increasing the current charges this year as the main fee generating services are set by statute. However the charges for both search fees and photocopying are being reviewed to make them consistent with other departments

3.5 A new charge have been included for the use of the new digital signs, in the town centres, for advertising purposes. There has already been some interest from local businesses wishing to utilise these signs.

3.6 Appendix 1 shows the current and next years proposed charges together including an indication of those that are set by statute.

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Background Papers:-

- Fees and Charges Returns

Implications	
Financial	All financial implications are detailed in the content of this report
Risk	CR1: Decreasing Financial Resources CR9: Economy
Equalities	Fees and charges proposed are across the services which the Council provides; services accessible and available to all.
Legal	Statutory increases in charges are incorporated within the proposals embodied within this report