

Fees & Charges 2017/18

Report by the Chief Financial Officer

Scottish Borders Council

22 December 2016

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides a schedule of proposed 2017/18 fees and charges as detailed in Appendix 1.

1.2 For 2017/18 the fees and charges are based on approved 2016/17 charges plus an inflationary increase of at least 3% unless there is a business reason not to do so such as charges being set nationally or if the increase would have a negative effect on usage.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Scottish Borders Council approves the fees and charges schedule detailed in Appendix 1.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council's Fees & Charges policy was approved in November 2012. The proposed Fees & Charges schedule attached is based on this policy. The policy ensures a consistent approach across all departments and requires the Council to review fees and charges on an annual basis. As far as possible the budget process has sought to ensure that charges levied by external organisations such as Live Borders and Arms Length Organisations such as SBCares are consistent with the Council's approved policy on fees and charges.

4 APPROACH

- 4.1 Appendix 1 shows the detailed fees and charges proposed for 2017/18 along with the previous two years charges and the percentage increase on last year's charge for comparison purposes.
- 4.2 This fees and charges schedule is being presented to Council in December 2016 to allow charging to be effectively put in place from 1st April 2017 or earlier if appropriate. This will ensure that charges are applicable throughout the full financial year 2017/18 and therefore such charges can provide the maximum benefit in terms of the Council's revenue budget 2017/18. Any further amendments to fees and charges proposed through the financial planning process will be presented to Council in February 2017.

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

It is estimated that the fees and charges set out will generate additional income of over £60k, part of which is already assumed within the current 2016/17 Financial Plan for 2017/18. The increase in fees and charges as proposed is therefore crucial in delivering both existing financial plan assumptions and making a contribution to challenging financial gaps in 2017/18 and thereafter.

4.2 Risk and Mitigations

There is a risk that increases in fees and charges may be resisted by customers impacting upon income levels and useage of facilities and services. Wherever possible this risk has been offset by appropriate benchmarking to ensure charges are in line with those levied by alternative providers and comparable Local Authorities.

4.3 Equalities

The Council has undertaken a review of the impact of fees and charges on equality groups as part of its impact assessment on the budget, an equalities impact assessment is attached as Appendix 2.

4.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no significant effects on the economy, community or environment.

4.5 Carbon Management

No effect on carbon emissions is anticipated.

4.6 Rural Proofing

It is anticipated there will be no disproportionate impact on the rural area. The changes to council tax will affect properties in Rural and urban areas equally.

4.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

No changes to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation are required.

5 CONSULTATION

5.1 Corporate Management Team has been consulted regarding the contents of this report. The Chief Legal Officer and the Chief Officer Audit and Risk have also been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the report.

Approved by

David Robertson
Chief Financial Officer

Signature

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Background Papers:

Previous Minute Reference:

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