

FEES & CHARGES 2019/20

**Report by the Chief Financial Officer
Scottish Borders Council**

20 December 2018

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides a schedule of proposed 2019/20 fees and charges as detailed in Appendix 1.**
- 1.2 For 2019/20 the fees and charges are based on approved 2018/19 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. In setting fees & charges the aspiration is that as far as possible the 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.
- 3.2 The Council in conjunction with Live Borders also recognises the need to undertake a wider piece of joint work on community access to schools and other facilities. This is a significant piece of work which will aim to standardise fees & charges and ensure as far as possible charges to groups, clubs and individuals for hire of facilities are affordable and encourage access to public facilities such as astro turf facilities for as many people as possible after school hours, at weekends and during school holiday periods. This project will not be concluded by February when the Council sets its budget and the results from this project will be reported when available along with the resulting financial implications. Any amendments to the fee & charges schedule will be reported at that time.

4 APPROACH

- 4.1 Appendix 1 shows the detailed fees and charges proposed for 2019/20 along with the previous three 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 2018 to allow charging to be effectively put in place from 1st April 2019. This will ensure that charges are applicable throughout the full financial year 2019/20 and therefore such charges can provide the maximum benefit in terms of the Council's revenue budget 2019/20. Any further amendments to fees and charges proposed through the financial planning process will be presented to Council in February 2019.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

It is estimated that the fees and charges set out will generate additional income of over £150k, part of which is already assumed within the current 2018/19 Financial Plan for 2019/20. 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 2019/20 and thereafter.

5.2 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.

5.3 Equalities

An equality impact assessment will be undertaken.

5.4 Acting Sustainably

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

5.5 Carbon Management

No effect on carbon emissions is anticipated.

5.6 Rural Proofing

It is anticipated there will be no disproportionate impact on the rural area.

5.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

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

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 Corporate Management Team has been consulted regarding the contents of this report. The Chief Legal Officer and the Chief Officer Audit and Risk will be consulted and any comments received will be reported at the meeting.

Approved by

David Robertson
Chief Financial Officer

Signature

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Background Papers:

Previous Minute Reference:

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