
Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

Date of meeting

Subject: Minor amendments to the Public Protection fees and charges 2015/16

Cabinet member: Councillor Keith Humphries –Health and Adult Care

Key Decision: No

Purpose of Report

1.0 To agree some minor amendments to the public protection fees and charges for 2015/16.

Background

2.0 The fees and charges for public protection services were originally approved by full council on 24 February 2015 as part of the budget setting process. Changes are required to a small number of those fees and charges, which originally came to light shortly before the council meeting, but after the papers had been published.

2.1 Advice received from finance and democratic services was to treat the changes as minor amendments once the main budget setting process had been completed, using the delegated decision process.

2.2 The details of the revised fees are as follows.

- Increase the officer charging rate for weight and measures stamping and verifications from £55 to £59 and from £33 to £35 where support staff are required (in line with national guidance from the Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers)
- Introduce a new administration fee for dealing with public health funerals where there are sufficient funds in the estate
- Apply the statutory maximum fee for private water sampling (£100)
- Apply the statutory maximum fees for check and audit analysis (£25)
- Increase the charge for water supply risk assessments from £310 to £320

Main Considerations for the Council

- 3.0 The revisions to the approved fees and charges ensure compliance with statutory fees and guidance, and only affect a small percentage of the service's range of fees and charges. Failure to approve these changes at this time will result in significant delay in their implementation and a minor reduction in income.

Safeguarding Considerations

- 4.0 There are no direct safeguarding implications arising from this report.

Public Health Implications

- 5.0 The proposed fees charged for some services, i.e. public health funerals and private water supply sampling, have the potential to safeguard health and wellbeing of individuals in specific cases.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

- 6.0 There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

- 7.0 The proposed amendments have low relevance in relation to their impact on equalities.

Risk Assessment

- 8.0 An accurate and comprehensive list of fees and charges ensures compliance with statutory guidance and the risk of successful challenges is reduced.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

- 9.0 The risk of not adopting the revised fees at this time is that the council will fail to comply with statutory fee levels or fail to attract the relevant income

Financial Implications

- 10.0 Approving the minor amendments to the fees and charges will generate the appropriate level of income for the relevant services.

Legal Implications

- 11.0 The revised fees will ensure compliance with statutory fee levels.

Options Considered

12.0 The option of not adopting the amended fees is not favoured for the reasons set out in this report, particularly in section 9 above.

Conclusions

13. The minor amendments to the fees and charges will ensure compliance with all relevant statutory fees and recent guidance.

***Proposal**

14. To agree the minor amendments to the public protection fees and charges.

***Reason for Proposal**

15. To comply with all relevant statutory fees and recent guidance, and avoid delay in their implementation.

Maggie Rae
Corporate Director
