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Public Protection Service Fees and Charges 2022 / 23

Purpose

- 1.1 The Public Protection Services annually review their fees and charges. This is to ensure that they reflect the cost of delivering services, take into account comparator rates for these services within the sector where permitted, ensure that inflationary cost increases are taken into account, and that budget income targets are achieved.
- 1.2 The 2022/23 proposed fees and charges for the services are set out in Appendix 1.

Recommendation

- 2.1 To approve the fees and charges for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 1.

Reason

- 3.1 Although most fees are statutory and can only be charged on a cost recovery basis, those discretionary services and fees support the Directorate to achieve its budgeted income targets for 2022/23.

Supporting Information

- 4.1 As part of the 2022/23 budget preparation, Departments within the Communities and Place Directorate have reviewed their fees and charges. The annual review is necessary to ensure that:
 - inflationary cost increases are incorporated into the charging structure where applicable;
 - any additional costs (or efficiencies) of providing the service are incorporated; and
 - fees and charges reflect the costs of delivering the service and/or charging levels for that sector.
- 4.2 The proposed fees and charges for 2022/23 for the Public Protection Service are set out at Appendix 1.

- 4.3 Some of the fees are set nationally and cannot be changed by the Council. In those cases where the Council has discretion to set the fees, these have been reviewed. Where relevant, inflation has also been added. The final column of the table in Appendix 1 sets out a narrative for any changes being proposed.
- 4.4 All prices are shown inclusive of VAT where it is applicable, unless explicitly stated otherwise.
- 4.5 The fees and charges relating to licensing functions are not included as these are approved separately by the Councils Licensing Committee.
- 4.6 The bereavement services fees and charges are not included as these are approved separately.
- 4.7 In 2012, the Council adopted the Foods Standards Agency (FSA) national scheme for rating the hygiene of premises under the 'Food Hygiene Rating Scheme' (FHRS). Under this scheme traders are given a rating between 0 and 5 for the standards of food hygiene found at their inspection. Where they are awarded a score less than 5, they are entitled to request a rescore with a view to obtaining a higher score. The FSA has issued guidance, confirming rescore visits on request by food businesses, where there is no statutory requirement, fall within the Localism Act 2011 and a charge can be levied. The proposed charge for this work is set out in Appendix 1. Re-visits undertaken in order to protect public health are part of the statutory duties of the service and will not come within the scope of the charging scheme.
- 4.8 Any new fees and charges that have introduced are identified by the information set out in the Comments Column at Appendix 1. These have been introduced following a review of the work being undertaken in the relevant service area. Where, applicable, the fees and charges have been set on a cost recovery basis.

Public/Stakeholder Engagement

- 5.1 No specific activity has taken place. The proposed fees and charges have been set to reflect the income targets for the service area and/or to recover the costs of providing the service.

Other Options

- 6.1 Not applicable.

Financial and Value for Money Issues

- 7.1 The proposed fees and charges have been set to reflect the 2022/23 income targets for the service area.

Legal Implications

- 8.1 Increases to fees and charges have only been applied to those items where the Council has the discretion to set fees and charges for the services it provides.
- 8.2 All other fees for regulatory services can only lawfully be set on a cost recovery basis. See Appendix 1.

Other Significant Implications

- 9.1 None

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Olu Idowu	24/03/2022
Finance	Janice Hadfield	24/03/2022
Service Director(s)		
Report sponsor	Samantha Dennis	24/03/2022
Other(s)		

Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Proposed Public Protection Service Fees and Charges 2022/23