

NATIONAL LAND INFORMATION SERVICE INITIATIVE

Report of the Director of Corporate Services.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Local Government Information House (LGIH) has written to all local authorities in England and Wales to advise them how they can benefit from National Land Information Service (NLIS) initiatives.
- 1.2 The NLIS service is an initiative that aims to provide a 'one stop shop' service to deliver, electronically, land and property information to solicitors, conveyancers and the general public. The Government sees initiatives such as this as important steps for Councils in meeting their E Government targets.
- 1.3 The first steps in moving to electronic service delivery for this service, are for the Council to sign the NLIS Data Provider Agreement. This seeks to:
 - approve a differential pricing policy by reducing by 18% the price of Local Land Searches that are received electronically - **see section 5 of this report.**
 - make sure that the Council implements its Local Land and Property Gazetteer by 31 December 2002.
 - make sure that the Council can receive Local Land Search application fees by automated bank credit payment.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To enter into the Data Provider Agreement terms as detailed in this report.
- 2.2 To approve a differential pricing policy for Local Land Search requests as outlined further in this report.
- 2.3 To increase the current cost of a standard search from £77 to £80 from 1 July 2002.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3 For the Council to work towards meeting its E Government targets by modernising the delivery of its Local Land Charges and Searches Service.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 Guidance on best practice from LGIH and the Local Government Association requires Councils to implement a Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) to BS7666 Standards by 31 December 2002. The LLPG will eventually link into a National Land and Property Gazetteer which will allow integrated electronic access to records for a variety of purposes including land searches and electoral registration.
- 4.2 Arrangements are to be made to receive payment for Local Land Searches by automated bank credit payment.
- 4.3 The National Land Information Service (NLIS) requires local authorities to adopt a differential pricing policy for service users who submit Local Land Search requests electronically. Under this policy search requests received in this way from 1 July 2002 will receive a discount of 18% in comparison to searches received by post or DX mail services.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is estimated that, in the first year of operation, electronic search requests will form 20% of the total level of searches received. As these searches will attract a discount of 18%, the price of searches received by other methods will need to be increased by 3.75%, based on assumed volumes of searches of 7000 a year (the achieved number received in 2001/02). This will ensure that budgeted income is achieved.
- 5.2 The current cost of a standard search of the Local Land Charges register is £77.00. For the Council to offer an 18% discount to those users submitting searches electronically, the cost of a standard search must rise by 3.75% to £80. The price increase would be effective from 1 July 2002. A new Local Land Search enquiry form will be introduced from 1 July 2002. The revised fee structure will be brought in at the same time as the revised search enquiry form.
- 5.4 A revised scale of charges from 1 July 2002 is attached as an appendix to this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6 The Council will become party to the NLIS Data Provider Agreement.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7 None

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8 None

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9 None

Background Papers:

Correspondence with NLIS.