

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Overview & Scrutiny Board 17th November 2014

FEES AND CHARGES 2014/15

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Mike Webb
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering , Director of Finance and Resources
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor Consulted	No
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Board with a summary of the fees and charges as agreed by Cabinet on 5th November 2014.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the fees and charges as presented in Appendix 1.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Medium Term Financial Plan has been prepared on the basis that additional income will be generated from fees and charges. The guideline increase provided to Heads of Service was 3%.
- 3.2 The revised fees and charges will be advertised to the public within approved deadlines with a start date of 1st April 2015, where an invoice has not already been raised covering the last quarter of the financial year, or as soon as practicable thereafter, dependant upon the notice period required prior to implementation.

Garden Waste Charges

- 3.3 The original fee for the garden waste service was £45 for the period March 15 – November 15. A revised proposal is included in the appendix to this report that states £38 as the charge due to officers' consideration of the current demand and level of fee that could be met by customers. £38 reflects a £3 increase on the 2014/14 charge for the service provided. There are a significant number of additional customers who have taken up the service and the current level is 19,700 which represents a 2,400 increase on previous years. As a

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consequence of the reduction to £38 and taking into account the additional customers, there is a shortfall in estimated income of £7k projected for 2014 which will be met from existing budgets within Environmental Services.

The full year effect of the reduction in 2015/16 is estimated at £63k. It is proposed that officers include this shortfall in the savings to be delivered during the budget process for 2015/16.

Legal Implications

- 3.4 A number of statutes governing the provision of services covered by this report contain express powers or duties to charge for services. Where an express power to charge does not exist the Council has the power under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 to charge where the activity is incidental or conducive to or calculated to facilitate the Council's statutory function.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.5 Monitoring will be undertaken to ensure that income targets are achieved.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.6 The implementation of the revised fees and charges will be notified in advance to the customer to ensure that all users are aware of the new charges and any concessions available to them.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 There is a risk that if fees and charges are not increased that income targets will not be achieved and the cost of services will increase.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Fees and Charges

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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7. **KEY**

None

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Sam Morgan, Financial Services Manager
E Mail: s.morgan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Tel: 01527 64252 extn 3790