

**From:** Bryan Sweetland, Cabinet Member – Environment, Highways & Waste  
John Burr, Director of Highways and Transportation

**To:** Environment, Highways & Waste Cabinet Committee

**Date:** 4 July 2012

**Subject:** Fees & Charges for Highways & Transportation

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:**

This paper details the review of fees & charges for Highways & Transportation, these include;

- Existing services
- Statutory or contractual services
- New chargeable services

**Recommendations:**

That the Committee:

- Endorses the adjustment of existing charges as set out in Appendix 1
  - Notes the fees and charges for statutory or contractual services
  - Recommends to the Cabinet Member that proposed new chargeable services are introduced
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This report details a number of proposed adjustments to the Fees & Charges for the services provided by Highways & Transportation. KCC recovers its reasonable costs of supplying certain services; this prevents the Authority subsidising services where external organisations re-charge clients.

Most of the existing service fees & charges have been held at the same level for the last 3 years whilst inflation has exceeded 4% per annum. Despite some efficiency savings and relatively small staff salary increases, the cost of providing the services has increased. If fees do not cover KCC's costs then services will need to be reduced or stopped all together.

A copy of the full schedule of Fees & Charges is attached as Appendix 1, this details existing charges, statutory or contractual services and proposed new chargeable services.

**Existing service charges** - H&T makes charges for a range of services provided on request from a variety of customers. This review has identified some opportunities for fee reduction, non-increase and reasonable increases.

It is recommended to reduce the charges for Bike-ability Cycle Training for schools from £15 to £10; this follows KCC securing a contribution from Government, over three years, this will enable H&T deliver this training for less.

Most of the charges to developers for supervision of new highway work are calculated as a percentage of the current estimated works costs so these rates do not need to be changed. The charges are broadly in line with those levied by other Highway Authorities.

KCC has developed an IT system to process permits for skips placed on the highway, as this system reduces all risk for non payment and largely removes the need for manual intervention, it is proposed not to increase these charges.

Conversely the paper application method is labour intensive, particularly as an electronic option has been available for some years, so it is recommended to increase these charges for skips, materials placed on the highway and scaffolding by £5.

In general terms, fees and charges do need to keep pace with the cost of providing services, therefore a minority of charges will typically be increased by 5% this year, this equates to less than 2% per annum since they were last fully revised in 2009.

**Statutory or contractual services** include national driver alertness and speed awareness courses, there has been an increase in demand which keeps the unit cost stable – fees are set in accordance with Association of Chief Police Officers guidelines. Inspection fees for vehicle cross over are set nationally through the New Roads and Street Works Act.

**New chargeable services** H&T has developed and maintains traffic models to measure the impact of proposed major developments upon the highway network. This data is currently provided to developers to construct planning concepts and applications, it is recommended that an individual assessment is made in proportion to the development scheme and charges are levied to offset the significant cost and maintenance of such transport models. It is also proposed:

To introduce a new fee of £42, chargeable to purchasers, sellers or their legal representation to ascertain the legitimacy of constructed vehicle crossovers, this currently involves an administrative burden upon the service.

To investigate and progress the current external demand for use of the speed awareness IT system. This system has been developed by KCC and is used to book and administer drivers onto driver improvement training courses. KCC is contracted by Kent Police to deliver and administer this service. Other national service providers wish to utilise this IT system.

## **Recommendations**

That the Committee:

- Endorses the adjustment of existing charges as set out in Appendix 1
- Notes the fees and charges for statutory or contractual services
- Recommends to the Cabinet Member that proposed new chargeable services are introduced

A revised schedule of the Fees & Charges will be published on the KCC website, subject to approval for all highway charges, the new rates will apply from 1st September 2012 and will be further reviewed each financial year.

## **Background Documents**

Appendix 1 - Highways & Transportation - PROPOSED FEES & CHARGES for 2012/13

## **Contact Information**

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