

From: **Matthew Balfour Cabinet Member of Environment & Transport**

Roger Wilkin, Director of Highways, Transportation & Waste

To: **Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee - 11 March 2016**

Subject: **Fees and Charges for Highways activities 2016/17**

Key decision Affects more than 2 electoral divisions

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper: N/A

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: Whole County

Summary: This paper details the proposed changes to fees and charges for the 2016/17 financial year for certain highways elements where a charge is made for the provision of services.

Recommendation:

The Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse, or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport on the proposals to amend fees and charges for 2016/17 as attached at Appendices 1 and 2. A proposed Record of Decision is attached at Appendix 3.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report details a number of adjustments to the fees and charges for the services provided by KCC as Highway Authority. KCC recovers its reasonable costs for supplying a range of services as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 Service fees and charges are generally reviewed annually. They were however held for three years between 2008 and 2011. In June 2012 a small increase was approved; this was effective for 18 months. Fees and charges were again reviewed in 2014/15 but no review was undertaken or changes made for 2015/16.
- 1.3 Officers have previously reviewed charges to determine whether;
 - costs are being recovered;
 - how they compare with fees charged by other Highway Authorities; and
 - services that are charged by other Authorities but not by KCC.

This report takes these charge reviews into consideration.

- 1.4 A copy of the full schedule of Fees and Charges is attached as Appendix 1, which details Highway service fees, developer fees, charges for technical information and the provision of training services.

2. The Report

Highway service fees

- 2.1 Highways & Transportation makes charges for a range of services provided to a variety of utilities, consultants, businesses and to a lesser extent, members of the public. It is proposed to increase fees in line with recent council tax increases, unless fees are not covering reasonable costs where a further increase has been proposed.
- 2.2 As there was no increase in 2015/16 the general increase has been at 3.98% reflecting 2 years council tax increases at 1.99% each year. Figures have been rounded for ease of application. The effective date for agreed changes to fees and charges is April 2016.
- 2.3 Inspection fees are published nationally by regulation through the New Roads and Street Works Act; these are noted in Appendix 1 for information.

Highway developer fees

- 2.4 Charging for pre-planning application advice to cover officer time was introduced in April 2014. Upon review, it is evident that KCC's charging tiers are too narrow and not in line with other Authorities.
- 2.5 With the continued increase in the number of large residential and commercial developments coming forward, it is recommended that further charging tiers are introduced for larger developments (over 200 units for residential and 10,000 m² for commercial) to reflect the scale of developments and the greater demand on officer time; the background and table of proposed charges are detailed in Appendix 2.

Traffic Signal Supply of Technical Data

- 2.6 Charges for the supply of traffic signal timing data, operation and site layout are time consuming due to their unique nature. It is therefore proposed to increase these charges to cover the staff time involved and recover our costs. These fees are now more aligned with those charged by other Highway Authorities.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The increases where proposed ensure we continue to recover our reasonable costs and contribute to the medium term financial plan.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications to this report.

5. Equalities implications

5.1 There are no equalities implications to this report.

6. Conclusions

6.1 As the economy starts to recover there is increased officer time involved in providing services and advice to businesses, such as developers, utilities, consultants and legal establishments. To retain fees and charges at current levels will result in respective services being subsidised to the detriment of core frontline operations.

6.2 A revised schedule of the fees and charges will be published on the KCC website, subject to approval for all highway charges, the amended rates will apply from 1 April 2016 and will be further reviewed each financial year.

7. Recommendation

The Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse, or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport on the proposals to amend fees and charges for 2016/17 as attached at Appendix 1 and 2. A proposed Record of Decision is attached at Appendix 3.

7. Background Documents

Appendix 1 - Highways & Transportation – Fees and charges for 2016/17

Appendix 2 - Developer fees and charges for 2016/17

8. Contact details

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