

Committee: **Council**

Date of Meeting: **30th March, 2023**

Report Subject: **Corporate Fees & Charges 2023/2024**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor Stephen Thomas, Leader of the Council/
Executive Member Corporate Overview & Performance**

Report Submitted by: **R Hayden – Chief Officer Resources**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
	9/3/23						30/3/23	

1. **Purpose of the Report**
 - 1.1 The purpose of this report is for Members to approve additional fees & charges to be applied for the 2023/2024 financial year.
2. **Scope and Background**
 - 2.1 At the Council Meeting on 6 March 2023, Members approved the Fees & Charges to be applied for 2023/2024. However a number of fees in relation to Estates and Strategic Asset management had been omitted from the register new fees for room hire at the General Offices are proposed and amendments to Trade Waste fees previously agreed is highlighted.
3. **Options for Recommendation**
 - 3.1 *To include Recommendation(s) / Endorsement by other groups, e.g. CLT/Committees/Other groups)*
 - 3.2 **Option 1 (Preferred Option)**
 - 3.2.1 Members of the Council consider and approve the fees and charges for 2023/2024 for Estates and Strategic Asset management attached at Appendix 1 and room hire charges for the General Offices at Appendix 2.
 - 3.2.2 Members approve an amendment to a fee relating to Waste Services from £574,93 per quarter to £543.66 per quarter for 2023/2024 (paragraph 5.1.4) and approve the restated fees relating to Bulky Waste collection included on Appendix 1.
 - 3.3 **Option 2**
 - 3.3.1 Members of the Council consider and do not approve the Fees and Charges attached at Appendix 1.

4. **Evidence of how this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

- 4.1 This report supports the Corporate Plan outcome “an ambitious and innovative Council delivering the quality services at the right time and in the right place”.
- 4.2 Income from Fees & Charges contributes funding (approx.5%) towards delivering Council priorities and supports the Councils’ financial resilience.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

- 5.1.1 The assumption in the Medium term Financial Strategy and the 2023/2024 draft estimates assumes that income budgets will remain at 2022/2023 levels and this is to mitigate any potential cost pressure arising during 2023/2024 should income levels reduce due to the cost of living crisis.
- 5.1.2 As a consequence of the increased costs that the Council is experiencing and is expecting to continue during 2023/2024 (8% inflationary increase), Council is asked to consider an 8% uplift to the Fees & Charges for Estates and Strategic Asset Management attached at Appendix 1 and the introduction of charges for the Hire of additional rooms at the General Offices is attached at Appendix 2.
- 5.1.3 An amendment is required to the quarterly charge for Trade Waste collection for 1100 litre bin, which was stated incorrectly on the Fees & Charges Register presented to Council on 6 March 2023. This figure should be:

Table 1 – Trade Waste Fee – Quarterly Charge for 1,100 litre bin

	Fee 2022/2023 £	Fee 2023/2024 £	% Increase
As approved on 6 March	563.65	574.93	2%
Restated Fee	533.00	543.66	2%

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

- 5.2.1 Fee increases may impact on demand from residents as they continue to be impacted by the cost of living crisis. This could result in a reduction in income that the Council receives, particularly in the short term.

Demand and the impact on the budget will be monitored and reported as part of the Financial Reporting Framework.

5.2.2 Not increasing fees & charges may put pressure on income budgets not currently achieving targets. The Council will not recover the full costs of delivering services with the Council subsidising costs to individuals.

5.3 ***Legal***

5.3.1 There are no direct legal implications arising out of this report. However, charging and trading for local authorities must comply with the Local Government Act 2003 and The Localism Act 2011.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

N/A

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

6.1.1 The proposed register of Fees & Charges is attached at Appendix 1 and 2.

6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

6.2.1 The setting of fees and charges on an annual basis is essential to maintaining economic resilience, however, these should be set at a cost that considers full cost recovery and what local people can afford, taking into account the protected characteristics.

6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

6.3.1 The review of the Fees & Charges Register has been prepared in consultation with relevant officers.

6.3.2 Services look to involve partners and citizens in consultation where possible. The impact of these charges will be reviewed throughout the year by officers, along with any issues raised by users of the services affected.

6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

6.4.1 Full cost recovery will support the long term financial resilience and the ability to maintain facilities and services for the people of Blaenau Gwent.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

6.5.1 Income generation contributes funding towards delivering Council Services and investing into early intervention and prevention activities.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

6.6.1 Fees & Charges are reviewed and updated in partnership with officers across the Council.

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

6.7.1 N/A

6.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***

N/A

6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment (IAA)*** *(All decisions, policy reviews or policy implementation will now require a completed Integrated Impact Assessment)*

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 *State how the work will be monitored e.g. through scrutiny or directorate performance management arrangements*

7.1.1 The regular review of the corporate fees and charges register is a vital component of the Council's budget setting proposal and should be monitored and refreshed to ensure it is in line with the Council's agreed income policy and Medium Term Financial Strategy.

7.1.2 Actual Income achieved from Fees & Charges during the financial year will be monitored and reported to Corporate Leadership Team and Members as part of the Financial Reporting Framework.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

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