

HIGHWAY CHARGES

To: **Cabinet**

Date: **27th April 2010**

From: **Acting Executive Director: Environment Services**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **Not applicable** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To seek approval for changes to highway charges.**

Recommendation: **Cabinet is asked to approve the revised charges set out in Appendix A.**

	<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact</i>
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Officers have undertaken an annual review of highway policies and charges to ensure that they are:
 - i. fit for purpose
 - ii. viable in the context of the budget forecasts for the highways service in the foreseeable future
 - iii. consistent with any changes in legislation and guidance.
- 1.2 Further work is to be undertaken to reflect on how some policies can be applied in a more flexible way and a full report on the highway policy review will be considered by Cabinet later in the year. At this stage, Cabinet is asked to consider the outcome of the annual review of highway charges to ensure that income expectations can be fully realised.
- 1.3 The Growth and Infrastructure Policy Development Group (PDG) considered and commented on the proposed changes to highway charges at its meeting on 17th March.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 Officers have reviewed the charges for various highway services which have been changed using the mechanisms approved by Cabinet (see **Appendix A**).
- 2.2 During 2009/10 a detailed review of the costs involved in the administration, management and delivery of Streetworks functions has been carried out. Those costs which are incurred as a result of work being undertaken for the benefit of individuals rather than for the benefit of all road users are now reflected in the charges shown.
- 2.3 Currently, the charges for development control highway agreements (Section (S)38, S278 and S106) are set at 7.5% of the total estimated cost of the highway infrastructure work. This covers technical vetting and approval of the works, administration throughout the life of the project and periodic site inspection as the work progresses to ensure compliance with adoption standards. Legal costs are recovered separately. A recent benchmarking exercise highlighted this fee as being low compared with many neighbouring Authorities. Therefore, it is recommended that the standard fee be increased to 8.5% to ensure that the overall costs of the adoption process are fully met by the developer.
- 2.4 Collecting 50% of the fee at the commencement of the S38 road adoption agreement process, which is current practice, has encouraged developers to progress agreements in a timelier manner. However, this does not provide sufficient incentive for a developer to sign an agreement prior to commencing on site. Consequently, it is also recommended that the fee be increased to 10% of the total estimated cost of the highway infrastructure work if work on site is commenced prior to an agreement being sealed. The effect of these changes will be to:

- focus developers on completing an agreement prior to commencing on site
- improve recovery of the Authority's actual administration, vetting and inspection costs
- provide an opportunity to lessen the risk to residents of new streets being built without a secured adoption mechanism.

If agreed, these changes in fee levels will be implemented later this year as and when a review of inspection resources is completed to ensure that the service being delivered is appropriate to the level of fees being charged.

3. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

Resources & Performance

Finance

- 3.1 The proposed changes to highway charges will ensure that income expectations are met to cover the cost of highway works being undertaken for the benefit of individuals rather than for the benefit of all road users.
- 3.2 Where applicable, highway charges have been increased by 2.5% to cover the inflationary pressures.

Performance

- 3.3 Performance is linked to staff resource which is dependent on income. Ensuring that operational and administration costs are met will allow appropriate resources to be provided to deliver the services being requested.

Key Risks

- 3.4 Failure to set appropriate charges carries the key risks shown below:
 - a) The potential for service levels to be undermined if suitable staff resource cannot be funded
 - b) Damage to the reputation of the County Council if the services requested are not adequately funded and resourced.
- 3.5 In order to manage these issues it is recommended that the changes to highway charges set out in this report be adopted to ensure income expectations can be met.

Statutory Duties/Requirements and Partnership Working

- 3.6 There are no significant implications for any of the headings under this category.

Climate Change

- 3.7 There are no significant implications for any of the headings under this category.

Access and Inclusion

Transport

- 3.8 The proposed changes to highway charges will allow service levels to be maintained to facilitate a range of activities on the highways network by third parties that contribute towards the effective management and safety of the council's road network and the growth agenda.
- 3.9 The proposed charges will contribute towards the enhancement of highway environments through the policies for public paths.

Engagement and Consultation

- 3.10 There are no significant implications for any of the headings under this category.

Source documents

PDG level 1 report 21/01/10

Location

ET 1028
Castle Court
Shire Hall

PROPOSED REVISED HIGHWAYS RELATED FEES AND CHARGES 2010/2011
[Changes/additions shown in bold italic]

Item	Charge	Comment	Annual index
Highways Agreements			
Permission to deposit building materials on the Highway	£15.75 [£22] for each 14-day period		Annual council budget inflation
Permission to deposit a skip on the Highway			
<i>Fine for unauthorised skip on the highway</i>	<i>£100</i>		
Permission to erect scaffolding over the Highway	£83.50 [£86] per month	Recovers cost of initial meeting and monthly inspections	
Obligation to dispense with consent for erection of hoarding / fence	£83.50 [£85.50] per month.	Recovers cost of initial meeting and monthly inspections.	
Section 142 License to Cultivate	£78.50 [£80.50] one-off charge		
Section 116 Stopping Up of Highway	£2,100 minimum charge per agreement	Covers legal and engineering costs, actual costs recoverable	
Oversailing Licence	£156.75 [£86]	Recovers cost of administration	
Private Works (including the clearance of debris following an accident)	Actual cost of work + 20% administration/supervision fee (with a minimum charge of £105)		N/A
<i>Banner Licence</i>	<i>£13</i>	<i>Recovers cost of administration</i>	<i>Annual council budget inflation</i>
NRSWA road opening inspection charges	£50 per notice		Set by central Government
NRSWA defect charge	£47.50 (when reported by the Council) £68 (when reported by a 3 rd party)		

Item	Charge	Comment	Annual index
Streetworks Section 50 licences (apparatus on public highway)	£400 [£410] per licence	Licence fee meets costs of supervisions/ inspections.	Annual council budget inflation
Development control			
Highways Act Section 38 road adoption agreement	8.5% of works cost plus legal costs <i>Fee increased to 10% if site work commences prior to sealing of agreement</i>		N/A
Highways Act Section 38 road adoption agreement parking control deposit sum	Basic deposit of £5,000 with £10 per linear metre up to a maximum of £10,000		N/A
Section 106 planning agreement	8.5% of works costs plus legal costs		N/A
Highways Act Section 278 highway works agreement	8.5% of works cost plus legal costs		
Highway stopping up application	£200 [£205] engineering fee		Annual council budget inflation
Dropped crossings	£50 inspection fee	<i>To cover initial site inspection and post construction inspection</i>	<i>Annual council budget inflation</i>
Soakaways	£5225 commuted sum		3 year review cycle (Review in 2010/11)
Highway and Traffic Orders			
TRO advertisement contribution (Parish Councils and community groups)	£250 [£266.50]		Annual council budget inflation
TRO advertisement costs (Business and other private bodies)	Actual cost		N/A
Residents parking permits	£41 - £50	Reviewed through Area Joint Committee/Cabinet	
Temporary road closure	£850	Cost of order only, other advice e.g. diversion routes subject to separate quotation.	Annual council budget inflation
Emergency road closures	£400 [£425]	Cost of order only, other advice e.g. diversion routes subject to separate quotation.	
Right of Way closure	£850		

Item	Charge	Comment	Annual index
Section 74 – charges for overstay	Major roads: £2,000 per day B & C class roads: £500 per day Unclassified roads: £100 per day		Set by central Government
Access Protection Markings	£83.50 [£85.50] + vat	One off charge includes site inspection, installation and future maintenance.	Annual council budget inflation
<i>Diversion or extinguishment of public footpaths and bridleways</i>	<i>£962 administrative fee plus the actual cost of two adverts in local newspaper</i>	<i>Based on 37hrs x £26 per hour staff cost</i>	
Other charges			
Driver Improvement Course	£205 [£210]		Annual council budget inflation
Adult Cycle Training	£20 [£20.50] for 1 hour £25 [£25.60] for 1.5 hours £28 [£28.70] for 2 hours	Duration of course depends upon the individual level of training required	
'BIKERS' motorcycle course	£36.50 [£37.40] per course		
Tourist signs	£156.50 initial administration fee including site feasibility survey plus full cost of design, manufacture and erection of sign		
Accident data requests	£94 [£96.35] + vat		
Charges for traffic count data	Minimum fee of £42 then rising dependant on nature of material required		N/A
Charges for traffic signal data	£52.25 [£53.50] fee per junction then rising dependant on nature of material required		Annual council budget inflation
Transponders	Actual cost for refundable deposit + 10% administration Actual cost + 10% administration for replacements		N/A

Item	Charge	Comment	Annual index
Regular updates of new TROs affecting movements for SatNav organisations	£522.50 [£535.50] annual charge		Annual council budget inflation
Reinstatement of ploughed/cropped paths	Minimum charge £150	Mileage @ current rate per mile plus legal, contractor and staff costs.	N/A
Safety Audit stage 2	£215 [£220.35] plus an hourly rate of £35.75 [£36.65] plus mileage costs		Annual council budget inflation
Safety Audit stage 3	£538 [£551.50] plus an hourly rate of £35.75 [£36.65] plus mileage costs	Includes night time site visit and Stage 4a and b audits carried out as standard at 12 and 36 months after competition	
Traffic signals technical vetting	£750 [£768.75] standard charge plus mileage	Includes site commissioning	
Land searches	Standard: £20 Optional Public paths or byways: £9 Mineral consultation areas: £10 Registered common land or village green: £7		Based on cost recovery for the service
Boundary enquires	£26 [£26.65] per hour		Annual council budget inflation
A2+ GIS print-out	£26 [£26.65] per print		
A4 / A3 GIS print-outs	£13 [£13.30] per print		
Certified copies of Definitive Map	£13 [£13.30] per copy		