

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No 7

meeting date: 25 JANUARY 2011
title: FURTHER REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
principal author: LAWSON ODDIE

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek member approval on proposals to increase the council's fees and charges for Summonses, Use of the Council Chambers and Committee Rooms and the Meals on Wheels Service.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 16 November this Committee considered a number of fees and charges for implementation from 4 January 2011, which looked to cover the increase in the VAT rate from that date and also to allow a further increase of at least 3%.
- 2.2 There were 3 areas of charging which were not agreed at that meeting for a variety of reasons, and a further report was requested in order to set these charges with effect from 1 April 2011, particularly as these charges were not VATable and would therefore be unaffected by the rise in the VAT rate on the 4 January 2011. The relevant charges are for:
- Meals on Wheels Service
 - Court Summonses
 - Use of the Council Chambers and Committee Rooms

3 MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE

- 3.1 Charges for the provision of meals under the Meals on Wheels scheme fall within this Committee. However, the current contract with LCC for the provision of some meals is due for renewal and a meeting has yet to be held to discuss future arrangements. Furthermore there have been indications of potential third party funding changes.
- 3.2 Due to the current situation it is not felt appropriate to review the charge for meals on wheels at this time, certainly until future contract arrangements have been agreed and third party funding is confirmed. It is therefore proposed to return to Committee at a later date for the approval of these charges or, if committee felt it appropriate, seek approval separately, from the Chairman of the Committee.

4 COURT SUMMONSES

- 4.1 This committee is responsible for setting the charge level for the issue of court summonses. Following a review of the charges made by other authorities and as these charges have not been increased since 1 April 2008, the proposal is to increase these charges from £50 to £60 (ANNEX 1). Acceptance of these charges is ultimately a decision of the Courts, however it is not anticipated that there would be any issues with this charge level.

4.2 In the proposed original estimate for 2011/12 it is anticipated that the Council would receive £71,800 per annum in summonses income. The increase in the charge from £50 to £60 would increase this income by £14,360. This increased charge, and the associated increase in income, is not accounted for in the proposed 2011/12 base budget later on the agenda. Therefore if approval is given for this increase, this committee's net budget would reduce by a further £14,360 and would obviously reduce the amount of savings which need to be identified in order to agree an overall budget for 2011/12.

5 USE OF THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND COMMITTEE ROOMS

5.1 The charges for the Use of the Council Chambers and Committee Rooms were presented to Committee at its previous meeting in November 2010. At this meeting concern was expressed at the low level of the charges for the hire of the facility and it was felt that the charges should better reflect the costs associated with running the facility.

5.2 Further analysis of the costs of the facility has been carried out and also some comparison has been made to similar facility charges. A new set of charges has been proposed and is shown at ANNEX 1. In the proposed original estimate for 2011/12 it is anticipated that the Council would receive £3,710 per annum in hire charges. The proposed increase in charges would potentially increase this income by £750, dependant upon customer resistance to the increases.

5.3 Again, the increased charge, and the associated increase in income, is not accounted for in the proposed 2011/12 base budget later on the agenda. Therefore if approval is given for this increase, this committee's net budget would reduce by a further £750 and again would reduce the amount of savings which need to be identified in order to agree an overall budget for 2011/12.

6 CONCLUSION

6.1 It is proposed to implement the fees and charges changes for Summonses and the Civic Suite from the 1 April 2011. Further approval will be sought over the coming months for the charges to be made for the Meals on Wheels service, once contract arrangements have been confirmed.

6.2 The approval of the proposals within this report are estimated to result in a total reduction of this committee's proposed net budget for 2011/12 of £15,110.

7 RECOMMENDATION THAT COMMITTEE

7.1 Consider the charges at Annex 1 and approve them for implementation on the 1 April 2011.

FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER

PF7-11/LO/AC
14 January 2011

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE – PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES FOR IMPLEMENTATION FROM 4 JANUARY 2011

COUNCIL TAX AND NATIONAL NON DOMESTIC RATES - CLTAX	Ledger Code	VAT	Current Charge for 2010/11 £	Proposed Charge from 1 April 2011 £
Issue of Summons (Agreed with Magistrates' Court)	CLTAX/8714z	Non Vatable	50.00	60.00

USE OF THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND COMMITTEE ROOMS <i>All organisations to be charged without exception</i>		Ledger Code	VAT	Current Charge for 2010/11	Proposed Charge from 1 April 2011
				£	£
COMMITTEE ROOMS 1 AND 2					
Charity or Recognised Community Organisation	Morning, Afternoon or Evening Session	CIVST/8520I	Non Vatable	18.25	30.00
	Full Day	CIVST/8520I	Non Vatable	35.60	42.50
All Other Organisations	Morning, Afternoon or Evening Session	CIVST/8520I	Non Vatable	46.20	60.00
	Full Day	CIVST/8520I	Non Vatable	69.00	85.00
COUNCIL CHAMBER					
Charity or Recognised Community Organisation	Morning, Afternoon or Evening Session	CIVST/8520I	Non Vatable	35.60	67.50
	Full Day	CIVST/8520I	Non Vatable	69.00	100.00
All Other Organisations	Morning, Afternoon or Evening Session	CIVST/8520I	Non Vatable	69.00	135.00
	Full Day	CIVST/8520I	Non Vatable	114.70	200.00
FOYER AREA ONLY					
Charity or Recognised Community Organisation	Morning, Afternoon or Evening Session	CIVST/8520I	Non Vatable	N/A	17.50
	Full Day	CIVST/8520I	Non Vatable	N/A	25.00
All Other Organisations	Morning, Afternoon or Evening Session	CIVST/8520I	Non Vatable	N/A	35.00
	Full Day	CIVST/8520I	Non Vatable	N/A	50.00
PROVISION OF CATERING - AT COST					