

## **The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

### **Cabinet Meeting: 6 February, 2017**

### **Joint Report of the Cabinet Member for Visible, Leisure and Regulatory Services and the Cabinet Member for Building Services, Highways and Transportation**

### **Visible Services and Transport - Proposed Fees and Charges for 2017/2018**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To propose changes in service charges for functions managed by Visible Services and Transport for the financial year 2017/18.

#### **Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet agree the charging and fee proposals for Visible Services and Transport as set out in this report.
2. That the report be referred to Scrutiny Committee (Environment and Regeneration) for consideration.

#### **Reasons for the Recommendations**

1. To obtain Cabinet's approval of the charging and fees proposed for 2017/2018.
2. To allow the charges and fees proposed to be considered.

#### **Background**

2. The Council delivers a number of chargeable services through the Directorate of Environment and Housing Services. These charges are set on an annual basis.
3. The total savings required in Visible Services and Transport for 2017/18 is approximately £2.2m. The department has a wide range of income sources that feed into its operational budgets and these include Welsh Government grants, income from external works, civil parking enforcement fines, lease income and a number of fees that are levied to the public and the commercial sector. The projected income for the department for 2017/18 is £5m with approximately £1.7m of this income coming from the fees and charges detailed within this report.
4. During such difficult financial times there is always a temptation to propose high fee increases across the service area. However, this would not necessarily guarantee a commensurate income increase across all areas, as patronage of certain services

could reduce. As advised in previous fees and charges reports, this is of particular concern with outdoor sports and services used by more vulnerable sectors of our community.

5. To ensure that current costs reflect inflation (2.2% from November 2015 to November 2016) and other demands such as wage awards, it is proposed to uplift the majority of service fees by the amounts as shown on the attached appendices. Certain charges will remain the same (such as coastal car parking and recycling bags). Charges once received from Barry Town Council proposed for Porthkerry Cemetery will reflect current arrangements at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery. A small number of charges are also proposed to be increased to better reflect the actual costs of service provision.

## Relevant Issues and Options

6. The proposed charges for services for 2017/18 are set out in the appendices as follows:

[Appendix 1](#) Waste Management and Cleansing

[Appendix 2](#) Highways, Engineering and Transportation

[Appendix 3](#) Leisure

[Appendix 4](#) Porthkerry Cemetery

- **Waste Management and Cleansing ([Appendix 1](#))**
7. As in previous years, to encourage greater commercial recycling it is proposed that these charges should remain unchanged.
  8. It is also proposed to keep the cost of a re-useable Green bag for garden waste and recycling boxes and bags at £2.00 each. All households that use the food waste service will again this year receive, free of charge, three rolls of kitchen caddie liners. These will be delivered to households that use the composting facility in April/May 2017.
- **Highways, Engineering and Transportation ([Appendix 2](#))**
9. It is proposed to retain the current 2016/17 peak and off peak car parking and coach charges at all coastal car parks.
  10. In accordance with Section 132 of the Highways Act 1980, the fixing or placing of banners (fly posting) on street furniture within the adopted highway is unlawful without having first obtained consent from the Council. Charitable organisations may apply to the Council for a licence to place a banner over/across the highway, but not on pedestrian guardrails. Any unauthorised banners or similar placard boards (fly posting) are generally removed by the Council as highway authority at the earliest opportunity and are required to be retained for collection by the owners. It is proposed to introduce a charge for return of illegal and unauthorised banners or similar removed from public highway at a cost of £65 per banner. This charge will allow the Council to recover a small element of the annual cost incurred in removing fly posting from the highway which can pose a significant risk to highway safety, especially when erected on pedestrian guardrails obstructing visibility. The charge will also serve as a deterrent to offenders and hopefully assist in reducing the occurrence of this type of inappropriate and illegal behaviour on the public highway.
  11. It is proposed to introduce a charge of £15 per key for the replacement of lost or damaged Alley Gate keys. This charge will cover the Council's costs and any

administration charges in providing replacement keys to residents who have lost or damaged the original keys they were issued. This minimal charge is considered reasonable to maintain this valuable key replacement service to communities with Alley Gates.

12. It is proposed that all other charges in this area be changed by the amounts shown at Appendix 2.

- **Leisure ([Appendix 3](#))**

13. It is proposed that the majority of charges in leisure be subject to small charging increase as shown at Appendix 3. A further report will be provided about Park Bench costs, which will also recommend the addition of a new procedure linked to the proposed pricing policy. A new charge is however proposed for the launching of model boats at the Knap Lake which is similar to that currently in force at Cosmeston Lakes.

- **Porthkerry Cemetery ([Appendix 4](#))**

14. As in previous years, the charges proposed are those put forward by Barry Town Council who manage the Cemetery on our behalf. The rates are in line with those charged by Barry Town Council at their cemetery in Barry.

### **Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)**

15. The fee increases outlined in this Report assist in reducing to the budgetary pressures within the Directorate. All income from fees including grant income is being reviewed by the business transformation project which is underway for Visible Services and Transport. Members will note from the appendices 1 - 3 that increased charges are proposed for filming. These increased are to ensure that there is consistency across the Division and also to reflect charges levied by the Countryside Service. Service charges will be negotiable given the increased recommended.

### **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

16. It is necessary to review fees on an annual basis to ensure the continuation of services in light of increasing costs. There are no specific climate change implications arising from the fee increases proposed.

### **Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)**

17. Under relevant legislation the Council is permitted to charge for certain services it provides.

### **Crime and Disorder Implications**

18. The provision of quality facilities and opportunities is recognised as making a significant contribution towards reducing crime and disorder particularly for young people.

### **Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)**

19. An equal opportunities scoping assessment has been undertaken and shows that there are no unacceptable adverse effects on the protected characteristics identified by the assessment. It is also considered that the charges proposed will not preclude any sectors of the community from accessing the services provided. In particular blue badge holders will continue to be exempt from car parking charges.

## **Corporate/Service Objectives**

20. The level of charges set for Visible Services and Transport assists us to operate within budget and provides much needed resourcing to maintain and enhance facilities. The relevant Corporate Plan is WO2 an Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Wales.

## **Policy Framework and Budget**

21. This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.

## **Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)**

22. The matters raised have implications for all areas in the Vale of Glamorgan therefore no specific consultation has been undertaken.

## **Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

23. Environment and Regeneration

## **Background Papers**

Equality Impact Scoping Assessment for Fees and Charges 2017/18

## **Contact Officer**

Emma Reed- Head of Visible Services and Transport

## **Officers Consulted**

Operational Manager - Waste Management and Cleansing  
Operational Manager - Highways and Engineering  
Operational Manager - Leisure  
Visible Services and Transport Accountant  
Business Support Manager  
Committee Reports

## **Responsible Officer:**

Miles Punter- Director of Environment and Housing Services