



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

**COUNCIL FEES AND CHARGES POLICY**

**2022/23**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES**

**Author: Barrie Davies (01443) 424026**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out:

- Proposed revisions to Council fees and charges levels for the financial year 2022/23 (all to be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 or as soon as is practicable thereafter); and
- Details of fees and charges decisions previously approved and included in the 2022/23 proposed Budget Strategy.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Consider and, if appropriate, approve the proposed revised levels for all areas of the Council's fees and charges as set out at section 5 and detailed at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Subject to fees and charges proposals being agreed, build the net budgetary impact (£45k for 2022/23) into the budget strategy proposals for consideration by Cabinet and Council as appropriate (paragraph 5.3).
- 2.3 Note the fees and charges decisions previously approved and included in the 2022/23 proposed Budget Strategy (paragraph 5.4 / Table 2).

**3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To agree the Council's fees and charges for 2022/23, required as part of the annual budget setting process.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Council provides a wide range of services across the County Borough and the ability to apply a charge is an important funding source to support the cost of maintaining service provision.
- 4.2 As part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Planning arrangements, fees and charges are reviewed regularly and, as part of this process, account is taken of funding levels received through the Local Government Settlement; the implications of decisions already approved; Corporate Plan priority areas; feedback received as part of the consultation process; and the level of inflation (i.e. the 12 month Consumer Prices Index (CPI) to December 2021 is 5.4%).
- 4.3 Where appropriate, agreement of the proposed revisions is now required in order to put in place the necessary steps for their implementation from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 (or as soon as is practicable thereafter).

#### **5. REVIEW**

- 5.1 Cabinet have reviewed fees and charges levels having regard to the information set out in Section 4 with the objective to continue to provide a comprehensive range of quality services at affordable prices.
- 5.2 The outcome of Cabinet's review is a proposed 2.50% standard increase to fees and charges (allowing for rounding adjustments as appropriate), with the Council absorbing the implications of not applying a standard uplift in line with the CPI rate of inflation. In addition, a number of areas are proposed to be subject to specific treatment, as set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Summary of proposed fees and charges not subject to the proposed standard increase

<b>Area of Charge</b>	<b>Proposed Exception</b>
Leisure for Life – Membership	Freeze (in line with prior decision)
Meals on Wheels / Day Centre Meals	Freeze (in line with prior decision)
School Meals	Freeze (in line with prior decision)
Car Park Charges	Freeze
Summer and Winter Playing Fees (sports clubs)	Freeze
3G Pitch Hire	Freeze
Licenses (Hackney Carriage / Private Hire)	Freeze
Lido / Rhondda Heritage Park	Freeze
Pest Control Service Charges (Domestic / Public Health)	Freeze

- 5.3 The impact of the proposals set out in Table 1 would reduce income by £45k in a full year (compared to the Council's budget modelling for 2022/23).
- 5.4 In addition, a number of fees and charges decisions have previously been approved and accordingly have already been incorporated into the Council's 2022/23 proposed Budget Strategy. These are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2 – Summary of decisions already approved

Area of charge	Decision approved
Adult Social Care Charges (non-residential care services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£100 per week in line with the current limit determined by Welsh Government (<a href="#">Cabinet 18th July 2017</a>)</li> </ul>
Fixed Penalty Notice (for environmental crimes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set at £100 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 (<a href="#">Cabinet 25th January 2018</a>)</li> </ul>
Houses in Multiple Occupation - Licenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>License fees set for the period 2019/20 to 2023/24 (<a href="#">Cabinet 14th February 2019</a>)</li> </ul>
Bereavement fees and charges for war veterans and service men and women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25% reduction to all Council bereavement fees incurred by families of deceased war veterans and service men and women resident in Rhondda Cynon Taf (<a href="#">Delegated Decision 8th May 2019</a>)</li> </ul>

- 5.5 As Members will be aware, a pilot was approved at the [21st November 2019](#) Cabinet meeting to apply a reduced cremation fee for funeral directors offering a Direct / Simplicity cremation service in Rhondda Cynon Taf. Following consideration of the results of the pilot at the [29th April 2021](#) Cabinet meeting, it was agreed that the provision of a Direct / Simplicity cremation service would continue in 2021/22 at the rate applied for the pilot scheme and, for 2022/23 onwards, the fee level would be determined as part of the annual fees and charges process.
- 5.6 For completeness, a full list of all fees and charges across all Council services can be accessed [here](#), now including the proposed level of charges for 2022/23.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Due regard has been given to the Council's public sector equality duties under the Equality Act 2010, namely the Public Sector Equality Duty and Socio-Economic Duty.

6.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and concluded that the recommendations set out in the report are in line with the above legislation.

## **7. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no Welsh language implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.

## **8. CONSULTATION**

8.1 A comprehensive budget consultation exercise has been undertaken in relation to the 2022/23 budget requirements.

8.2 The proposals included in this report do not require any specific additional consultation exercises to be undertaken.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 As outlined in section 5 of the report, the proposed revisions to fees and charges levels for 2022/23 would reduce income by £45K in a full year if Cabinet decide to take forward the proposed recommendations (as compared to the Council's budget modelling for 2022/23).

## **10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

10.1 There are no legal implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

## **11. LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

11.1 Fees and charges income is a critical component of the funding arrangements for many services. At a local level, the proposals intend to ensure the continued provision of a comprehensive range of quality services at affordable prices for users to support the Council's work in delivering its Corporate Plan priorities; improving the provision of essential services; and at the same time 'living within its means'.

11.2 The proposals also complement the requirements of the Well Being of Future Generations Act in helping to provide Services with adequate resources to continue their work in shaping provision fit for the future and, in doing so, enable positive contributions to be made toward meeting the seven national wellbeing goals.

## **12. CONCLUSION**

12.1 This report sets out proposals for the level of Council fees and charges for the forthcoming year, and, if approved, will be incorporated within the recommended 2022/23 Revenue Budget Strategy to Council on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

### **Other Information**

**Relevant Scrutiny Committee** – Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee

**PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2022/23**

Group	Service Area	Type Of Income	2022/23 Proposed Increase
Chief Executive	Land Charges	Land Charges (excluding those set nationally)	2.50%
Community and Children's Services	Environmental Health (Pollution) and Licensing (where applicable)	Licences (General)	2.50%
		Licenses (Hackney Carriage and Private Hire)	0%
		Houses in Multiple Occupation – Licenses	Price set in line with previous decision
	Food Standards	Course Fees General	2.50%
	Bereavement Services*	Cremation Fees (including Direct / Simplicity cremations)	2.50%
		Burial Fees	2.50%
		All supplementary fees & charges	2.50%
	Registrar	Booking Fees	2.50%
		Attendances	2.50%
	Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools	Pay & Play Fees	2.50%
		3G Pitch Hire	0%
		Membership Fees	0% (frozen until January 2023)
	Rhondda Heritage Park	<u>Admission Fees - Schools</u>	
		Welsh Mining Experience (underground tour)	0%
		Santa's Grotto	0%
		<u>Admission Fees - External</u>	
		Welsh Mining Experience (underground tour)	0%
		Santa's Grotto	0%
		Miscellaneous Sales / Souvenirs	2.50%
	Lido – Pontypridd	Leisure Sales Income	0%
	Park & Dare & Coliseum Theatres	Bars & Catering	2.50%
		Room/Venue Hire	2.50%
		Ticket Sales	Internally set based on act / performance
Cinema (entrance fee)		2.50%	
Community Centres	Rental Income / Hire Charges	2.50%	
	Leisure Sales Income	2.50%	

Group	Service Area	Type Of Income	2022/23 Proposed Increase
Community and Children's Services	Parks & Recreation Grounds	Summer Fees (Sports Clubs)	0%
		Winter Fees (Sports Clubs)	0%
	Dare Valley Country Park	Hire Charges	2.50%
		Rental Income	2.50%
	Day Services	Catering Income	2.50%
		Meals Sales	0% (frozen until 2023)
		Hire Of Premises	2.50%
		Produce Sales	2.50%
	In-House Residential Services	Board And Lodge Income	2.50%
		Meals Sales	2.50%
	Domiciliary Care (Adults)	Non Residential Care Charges	In line with previous decision: maximum weekly charge payable set by Welsh Government (and based on individual financial circumstances)
	Nurseries	Day Nursery Fee Income	2.50%
	Telecare	Lifeline Income	2.50%
	Pest Control	Pest Control Service Charges (Domestic / Public Health)	0%
		Other Pest Control Service Charges	2.50%
	Libraries	Library Fines	2.50%
		Hire Charges	2.50%
		Photocopy & Printing Charges	2.50%
		All Other Sales	2.50%
	Adult Education	General Course Fees	2.50%
Hire Charges		2.50%	
Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services	Street Cleansing Operations	Fixed Penalty Notice (environmental crimes)	Price set in line with previous decision
	Allotments	Rental Income	2.50%
	Parks Services	Rental Income	2.50%
		Income From Outside Bodies	2.50%
	Commercial Waste	Trade Refuse Charges (Residual)	2.50%
		Trade Refuse Charges (Recycling)	2.50%
	Waste Collection	Bulky Waste Collection Income	2.50%
		Replacement Bin Charges	2.50%
	Parking Services	Season Ticket Parking Fees	0%
		Parking Fees	0%
		Residential Parking Permits	0%
	New Roads and Street Works Act (NRSWA)	Licences	2.50%
	Home To School	Sale of Surplus Seats	2.50%
Traffic Management	Fees	2.50%	

<b>Group</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Type Of Income</b>	<b>2022/23 Proposed Increase</b>	
Education and Inclusion Services	School Meals Income	School Meals Sales	0% (frozen until 2023)	
	Catering Training	Miscellaneous Contributions	2.50%	
	Meals on Wheels	Clients Meals Sales	0% (frozen until 2023)	
	Peripatetic Music Service	Course Fees General		2.50%
		Performances - Ticket Income		2.50%
		Equipment Hire		2.50%

\* Bereavement Services – in line with previous decision: 25% reduction to all Council bereavement fees incurred by families of deceased war veterans and service men and women resident in Rhondda Cynon Taf

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES**

**COUNCIL FEES AND CHARGES POLICY 2022/23**

**Background Papers**

None

Officer to contact: Barrie Davies