

Briefing Paper to accompany the Fees and Charges Register

1. Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider and approve the changes to charges detailed within the Council's fees and charges register. The fees and charges register is maintained and updated for submission as part of the budget setting process on an annual basis, with the new fees agreed as a whole rather than on an individual basis.

The fees and charges register, contains details of all items for which a charge is made. It is important that these fees are reviewed at least annually as part of the budget setting process and reviewed during the year, in line with the Councils income policy. This will ensure existing targets are being met and to explore any further income potential to maximise the Councils resources.

Improving income management and service cost recovery has a key role to play in enabling the Council to achieve its financial and wider strategic objectives.

The fees and charges are being reviewed by each Service area, and appropriate uplifts proposed. Some of the fees have been increased in line with Welsh Government guidance, while others have been increased to reflect the increasing cost associated with these fees and linked to inflation, whilst other areas have increased charges below this rate in order to retain their customer base. Further detail of changes is discussed below. Some of the charges are still to be confirmed but will be available for full council in February.

There are several fees and charges which are outside of the council control as these are set by statute or the HSE and these will be updated when we have confirmation of fees for the coming financial year.

2. Changes to Note to the Register

Car Parks – Charging structure introduced in April 2023 is to be retained. There will be no increases in respect of parking for longer than four hours nor for car park permits.

LAPAAN – The highways technical team have reviewed the charges made for Licences, Authorisations, Permissions, Agreements, Approvals and Notices. Fees have been reviewed, the average increase across these sources of income is 6.71%. Some charges have a greater increase due to increasing costs and future increased cost risks associated with these sources of income.

Waste Collection – Average increase across Greenwaste collection sources of income is 27.3%. These charges are being reviewed as part of the service FRM savings requirements.

Social Care – There has been a change in the charges for Direct payment scheme and home care. These charges may be subject to review following receipt of updated Welsh Government guidance.

Burial Services – All collection sources of income have been increased by 10%. These charges are being reviewed as part of the service FRM savings requirements.

