

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

25th FEBRUARY 2021

COUNCIL FEES AND CHARGES POLICY

2021/22

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES

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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 2021/22 (all to be effective from 1st April 2021 or as soon as is practicable thereafter); and
- Details of fees and charges decisions already approved that can now be included within the 2021/22 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 (£185k for 2021/22) into the budget strategy proposals for consideration by Cabinet and Council as appropriate (paragraph 5.4).
- 2.3 Note the fees and charges decisions already approved and included in the 2021/22 proposed Budget Strategy (paragraph 5.5 / Table 2).

3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To agree the Council's fees and charges for 2021/22, 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 forward projection of the level of inflation (i.e. the Consumer Prices Index).
- 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 1st April 2021 (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 and, in addition for the forthcoming year, the on-going impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and recovery work as a result of Storm Dennis, 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 1.70%¹ standard increase to fees and charges (allowing for rounding adjustments as appropriate) with the exception of a number of areas that are proposed to be subject to specific treatment. A summary of these exceptions are set out in Table 1 below.

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

Area of Charge	Proposed Exception
Leisure for Life	Nil Increase
Car Park Charges	Nil Increase
Summer and Winter Playing Fees (sports clubs)	Nil Increase
Meals on Wheels / Day Centre Meals	10p per meal and then price frozen until 2023
School Meals	Nil Increase (and price frozen until April 2023)
Bereavement Fees	Nil Increase
Lido / Rhondda Heritage Park	Nil increase

¹ Proposed 1.7% standard increase – the Council's 2021/22 budget modelling already incorporates a proposed 1.7% increase to all fees and charges.

- 5.3 With specific regard to Meals on Wheels / Day Centre Meals, the current meal price is £3.95 and the proposal is for the price of both to be increased to £4.05. In terms of comparing across Wales, based on the latest information available, prices range between £3.30 and £5.65.
- 5.4 The impact of the proposals set out in Table 1 would reduce income by £185k in a full year (as compared to all fees and charges being increased by 1.7%).
- 5.5 In addition, a number of fees and charges decisions have previously been approved and accordingly have already been incorporated into the Council's 2021/22 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"> • Increase from £90 to £100 per week in line with the revised limit determined by Welsh Government (Cabinet 18th July 2017)
Fixed Penalty Notice (for environmental crimes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set at £100 with effect from 1st April 2018 (Cabinet 25th January 2018)
Houses in Multiple Occupation - Licenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • License fees set for the period 2019/20 to 2023/24 (Cabinet 14th February 2019)
Bereavement fees and charges for war veterans and service men and women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% reduction to all Council bereavement fees incurred by families of deceased war veterans and service men and women resident in Rhondda Cynon Taf (Delegated Decision 8th May 2019)

- 5.6 As Members will be aware, a pilot was also approved at the [21st November 2019](#) Cabinet meeting to apply a reduced cremation fee for funeral directors offering a direct cremation in Rhondda Cynon Taf. Following the introduction of the pilot, 28 direct cremations have taken place at Glyntaff Crematorium equating to a reduction in income of £4k. As the pilot is still in place, no budgetary impact on fees and charges is being proposed for 2021/22 and an update will be reported in the forthcoming financial year providing feedback on the pilot and proposed next steps.
- 5.7 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 2021/22.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full report is not required at this time.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 A comprehensive budget consultation exercise has been undertaken in relation to the 2021/22 budget requirements.
- 7.2 The proposals included in this report do not require any specific additional consultation exercises to be undertaken.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 As outlined in section 5 of the report, the proposed revisions to fees and charges levels for 2021/22 would reduce income by £185k in a full year if Cabinet decide to take forward the proposed recommendations (as compared to all fees and charges being increased by 1.7%).

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

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

10. LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 10.1 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'.
- 10.2 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.

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 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 2021/22 Revenue Budget Strategy to Council on 10th March 2021.

Other Information

Relevant Scrutiny Committee – Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee

PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2021/22

Group	Service Area	Type Of Income	2021/22 Proposed Increase
Chief Executive	Porth Plaza	Hire Of Premises	1.70%
	Land Charges	Land Charges (excluding those set nationally)	1.70%
Community and Children's Services	Environmental Health (Pollution) and Licensing (where applicable)	Licences	1.70%
		Houses in Multiple Occupation – Licenses	0%
	Food Standards	Course Fees General	1.70%
	Bereavement Services ²	Cremation Fees	0%
		Burial Fees	0%
		All supplementary fees & charges	0%
	Registrar	Booking Fees	1.70%
		Attendances	1.70%
	Community Safety CCTV	Other Fees Receivable	1.70%
	Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools	Pay & Play Fees	1.70%
		Membership Fees (frozen until January 2023)	0%
	Rhondda Heritage Park	Admission Fees - Schools	0%
		Welsh Mining Experience (underground tour)	
		Other (including Santa's Grotto)	0%
		Admission Fees - External	0%
		Underground Experience	
	Santa's Grotto	0%	
	Other (including souvenirs)	0%	
		Miscellaneous Sales / Souvenirs	1.70%
	Lido – Pontypridd	Leisure Sales Income	0%
	Park & Dare & Coliseum Theatres	Bars & Catering	1.70%
		Room/Venue Hire	1.70%
		Ticket Sales	Internally set based on act / performance
		Cinema (entrance fee)	1.70%
	Community Centres	Rental Income / Hire Charges	1.70%
		Leisure Sales Income	1.70%
	Parks & Recreation Grounds	Summer Fees (Sports Clubs)	0%
Winter Fees (Sports Clubs)		0%	
Dare Valley Country Park	Hire Charges	1.70%	
	Rental Income	1.70%	
Day Services	Catering Income	1.70%	
	Meals Sales	£0.10 per meal (then frozen until 2023)	
	Hire Of Premises	1.70%	
	Produce Sales	1.70%	

² Bereavement Fees – 25% reduction for war veterans and service men and women

Group	Service Area	Type Of Income	2021/22 Proposed Increase
	In-House Residential Services	Board And Lodge Income	1.70%
		Meals Sales	1.70%
	Domiciliary Care (Adults)	Non Residential Care Charges	N/A
	Nurseries	Day Nursery Fee Income	1.70%
	Telecare	Lifeline Income	1.70%
	Pest Control	Pest Control Service Charges	1.70%
	Libraries	Library Fines	1.70%
		Hire Charges	1.70%
		Photocopy & Printing Charges	1.70%
		All Other Sales	1.70%
	Adult Education	General Course Fees	1.70%
		Hire Charges	1.70%
Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services	Street Cleansing Operations	Contract Income	1.70%
		Fixed Penalty Notice (environmental crimes)	N/A
	Allotments	Rental Income	1.70%
	Parks Services	Rental Income	1.70%
		Income From Outside Bodies	1.70%
	Commercial Waste	Trade Refuse Charges (Residual)	1.70%
		Trade Refuse Charges (Recycling)	1.70%
	Waste Collection	Bulky Waste Collection Income	1.70%
		Replacement Bin Charges	1.70%
	Parking Services	Season Ticket Parking Fees	0%
		Parking Fees	0%
		Residential Parking Permits	0%
	New Roads and Street Works Act (NRSWA)	Licences	1.70%
	Home To School	Sale of Surplus Seats	1.70%
	Traffic Management	Fees	1.70%

Group	Service Area	Type Of Income	2021/22 Proposed Increase / Price	
Education and Inclusion Services	School Meals Income	School Meals Sales	0% (price frozen until April 2023)	
	Catering Training	Miscellaneous Contributions	1.70%	
	Meals on Wheels	Clients Meals Sales	£0.10 per meal (then frozen until 2023)	
	Peripatetic Music Service	Course Fees General		1.70%
		Performances - Ticket Income		1.70%
		Equipment Hire		1.70%
