

Decision under Delegated Powers Fees and Charges for Environmental Health Services

Officer Requesting Decision

Kerry Bowley – Health and Safety and Business Engagement Manager

Officer Making the Decision

Alan Twells – Head of Regulatory Services

Recommendation

To approve the Environmental Health fees and charges for 2022/23.

Reason

To undertake the annual review of fees and charges for the services provided.

Authority for Decision

By virtue of the Delegation to Heads of Service in section 8 of the Constitution, Heads of Service are delegated to undertake the periodic review of fees and charges raised within their service areas and falling within the scope of the Council's Income and Charging Policy Framework.

Decision and Date

Background

An annual review is undertaken to consider the fees and charges made by the Council for both the statutory and discretionary services it provides. The Council has powers to charge for statutory services in specific legislation which is stated by each fee/charge below.

The Council also has the power under the Local Government Act 2003 to charge for discretionary services, in this decision marked (D), but this power is limited to recovering the costs of providing the service. Section 93(3) of the Act places a duty on the Council "to secure that, taking one financial year with another, the income from charges ... does not exceed the costs of provision".

The review of all Environmental Health fees and charges takes into consideration inflation, increases in direct costs and the charges made by other local authorities for the same service across the County.

Animal activity licensing was significantly changed in 2018 and Charnwood Borough Council worked with other Leicestershire local authorities to set licence fees are

comparable across the County. They are set at a level to recover most of the costs involved in operating the service, but also to encourage those carrying out these activities to licence with the relevant local authority and have their activities assessed to ensure animal welfare is not being compromised. Only minor increases have occurred, however the amount of time taken to carry out these inspections has reduced, from originally predicted, as the licensing officers are familiar now with the new licence conditions and guidance documents that were introduced in 2018.

We do not propose to increase charges for our pest control services. This is to allow us to continue providing good value and allow people to continue to access the service to deal with Public Health pests. It is proposed to review the service provision in 22/23 to determine relevant charges linked to changing treatment methods.

All other charges are representative of the calculated cost to provide the service or in relation to enforcement to ensure consistency across Leicestershire.

The most significant increase across Environmental Health for 22/23 are the registration fees for skin piercing activities. To be consistent with other Leicestershire local authorities we have reverted to separating the registration process into a premises registration and each practitioner requires their own separate registration, instead of a combined registration. The new fee is a significant increase (66%) on the previous combined fee. However, for those that are operating with 3 or more practitioners it works out more cost effective and it will be easier to keep up to date with who is operating from that address. This is a one-off registration and does not impact anyone who has an existing registration; only new registrations pay this fee. The new fee is comparable to other Leicester local authorities.

The Environmental Health fees and charges for 2022/23 from 1st April 2022 are set out below:-

ANIMAL ACTIVITY LICENCES

Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

SINGLE ANIMAL ACTIVITY LICENCE FEE

Animal Activity	Application Fee (Paid at the time of application)	Licence Fee (Paid once the licence has been granted)	Total Licence Fee	% Variation
Selling animals as pets	£135	£73	£208	+ 1.5%
Providing boarding for cats and dogs domestic - 6 or less <i>dogs and accommodated inside the domestic premises.</i>	£115	£63	£178	+ 1.7%
Providing boarding for cats and dogs domestic commercial - 7 + animals and / or <i>animals</i>	£135	£73	£205	+ 1.5%

*accommodated
outside the domestic
premises.*

Hiring out horses	£135*	1 Year - £73	£208	+ 1.5%
		2 Years - £90 **	£225 **	+ 2.3%
		3 Years - £105 ***	£240 ***	+ 2.1%
Breeding dogs	£135 ****	£73	£208	+ 1.5%
Keeping or training animals for exhibition	£135	£73	£208	+ 1.5%

Additional Fees

* *There is a requirement for a veterinary inspection on the granting and renewal of a hiring out of horses licence which the operator will be invoiced separately following the visit.*

** *For a 2-year hiring out of horses licence there will also be an additional charge for the veterinary inspection that needs to be carried out at 12 months.*

*** *For a 3-year hiring out of horses licence there will also be two additional charges for the veterinary inspections that need to be carried out at 12 and 24 months.*

**** *There is also a requirement for a veterinary inspection on the granting of a new breeding dogs licence which the operator will be invoiced separately following the visit.*

ADDITIONAL ANIMAL ACTIVITY FEE

	Application fee (Paid at the time of application)	Licence fee (Paid once the licence has been granted)	Total licence fee	% Variation
Additional Animal Activity	£58	£36.50	£94.50	1.6%

Additional Notes

The hiring out horses will always be considered as the primary application that additional animal activities are added to.

A breeding dogs' licence would still require a veterinary inspection on the granting of a licence.

MISCELLANEOUS ANIMAL ACTIVITY FEES

Re risk rating		£130		+ 4%
Variation to the licence – admin only		£20		+ 14.3%
Variation to the licence– visit required		£75		+ 4.2%
Additional copy of the licence		£5		+ 20%
Keeping a Dangerous Wild Animal <i>Section 1 Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976</i>		£270.00 (New licence) Plus, veterinary fees on new applications.		+3.8%
		£88.00 (Renewal) Plus, veterinary fees for licence renewals.		+ 3.5%

REGISTRATION FEES

These one-off registrations cover the activities of;
Acupuncture / Electrolysis / Tattooing / Ear Piercing / Cosmetic Piercing / Semi Permanent Make-up.

Registration	Registration Fee	% Variation
Premises	£110	Previously combined £133 for combined registration – 66% increase. Savings if 3 or more practitioners.
Each Practitioner	£90	

Section 14 and 15 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

FEES AND CHARGES FOR SERVICES

Pest Control Services (D)	Charge	% Variation
Domestic Rodent Treatment	£45 for up to 4 visits. £20 refund if we are unable to treat. Internal treatment - free for those in receipt of a specified benefit * External treatment – 50% reduction for those in receipt of a specified benefit - £22.50. <i>£10 for each additional revisit. This charge is currently not being used as we are assessing alternative treatments. We will give one month's notice on our website when we intend to reintroduce the revisit charge.</i> £25 Advisory Visit for those not in receipt of a specified benefit.	0%

£12.50 Advisory Visit Charge for those in receipt of a specified benefit – external only as internal free.

This is a new advisory visit treatment charge for rodents, which is the same as above but rather than charge full price and then refund, they can pay the lower price to have an advisory visit.

Commercial Rodent Treatment	<p>Min charge of £100 + VAT for initial visit and 2 revisits.</p> <p>Any further revisits will be charged at £45.70 + VAT per hour.</p>	0%
Commercial Rodent Contract	<p>All contracts are based on a £45.70 + VAT charge per hour.</p> <p>The Basic Monitoring Contract includes 13 visits, and then an additional charge for any revisits that are required in between monitoring visits.</p> <p>The Full Monitoring Contract includes 26 visits and no additional charges.</p>	0%
Squirrels	<p>£56 inc VAT for first and final visit</p> <p>£22 inc VAT for any additional in between visit.</p> <p><i>50% reduction for those on specified benefits *</i></p> <p>£28 inc VAT for first and final visit</p> <p>£11 inc VAT for any additional in between visit.</p>	<p>+ 1.02%</p> <p>0%</p> <p>+ 1%</p> <p>0%</p>
Domestic Bedbug Up to 3 treatment rooms	<p>£92 inc VAT</p> <p><i>50% reduction for those on specified benefits *</i></p> <p>£46 inc VAT</p>	<p>+ 1.02%</p> <p>+ 1.02%</p>

For each additional room	£25 inc VAT	0%
	<i>50% reduction for those on specified benefits *</i>	
	£12.50 inc VAT	0%
Domestic Cockroach Treatments	£66 inc VAT	+ 1.02%
	<i>50% reduction for those on specified benefits *</i>	
	£33 inc VAT	+ 1.02%
Domestic Flea Treatments	£66 inc VAT	+ 1.02%
	<i>50% reduction for those on specified benefits *</i>	
	£33 inc VAT	+ 1.02%
Domestic Wasp Treatments **	£56 inc VAT	+ 1%
	<i>50% reduction for those on specified benefits *</i>	
	£28 inc VAT	+ 1%
Commercial Wasp Treatment **	£49.17 + VAT*	1%
Commercial Premises Insect Treatment (bedbugs, fleas and cockroaches)	£45.70 + VAT per hour per officer.	0%
Supply and fit one rat blocker	£110 inc VAT	0%
Mouse trap tunnel and two traps	£10 inc VAT	0%

* The following are specified benefits:- Income Support, Pension Credit, Job Seekers Allowance, Income Based (JSA-IB), Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support, Universal Credit or Employment and Support Allowance – Income Related (ESA-IR)

** Second and subsequent wasp nests on same site treated at time of first nest are charged at £13.00 (£6.50 for those on specified benefits).

Revisit to original wasp nest – no charge. Treatments do not include removal of nest.

Additional Notes

Payment for chargeable services must be paid prior to or at time of treatment unless being recharged to landlord, formal order received or contract agreed.

Charnwood Borough Council tenants pay the charges above unless an official order is received from Charnwood Borough Council.

If we are unable to carry out the treatment, then a £25 visit charge will remain and the service user will be refunded any remaining amount for the treatment. If they are in receipt of specified benefits then this visit charge will be reduced to £12.50 for a chargeable service and they will be refunded any remaining amount. This refund is for non-treatment only, not if the treatment is carried out and is not successful.

With the Health and Safety and business Engagement Manager having discretion to waive charges in exceptional circumstances or where a household is still experiencing problems due to the act or omission of someone else which is being investigated.

Dog Control Services	Charge	% Variation
Collection & Kennelling of Stray Dogs	Prescribed amount and administrative fee £54.18	+ 0.4%
Plus contractor's kennel fee <i>Section 149(5) Environmental Protection Act 1990</i>	£12 including VAT per day and any veterinary fees incurred. **	+ 5.3%

**With the Head of Service having discretion to waive charges in exceptional circumstances or where a householder, or a dog owner on the first occasion on which their dog has strayed, is in receipt of any of the following:- Income Support, Pension Credit, Job Seekers Allowance (income based), Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support, or Universal Credit.*

***This is subject to an annual increase, normally in April / May, which is determined in line with the stray dog kennelling service contract and then published on the website.*

Food Safety	Charge	% Variation
Certificates (not subject to VAT)		
Request for Voluntary Surrender of Unsound Food Certificate of Surrender (D)	£70.00	0%
Request for Certificate of Surrender and Collection/Disposal (D)	£70.00 + collection/disposal costs	0%
Reactive Certificate of Surrender and destruction and disposal where appropriate.	Collection / disposal costs to be determined and itemised on each case.	0%
Food Health Certificate (Export)	£70.00 + hourly rate of £55.47 per hour if visit required.	0%
Copy of Export Certificate	£25	0%
Request for FHRS Revisit	£150	0%
Primary Authority		
Primary Authority Charge – Food Safety	£55 per hour	5.2%

(not subject to VAT)

Printing

Safer Food Better Business (SFBB) Pack	£15 inc VAT	0 %
SFBB Diary sheets only	£3.50 inc VAT	0%
Charge to post the pack SFBB Pack 2 nd class post	£1.85 inc VAT	15.6 %

Environmental Protection Services

(not subject to VAT)

	Charge	% Variation
Alarm Disconnections - Requiring a Magistrates Warrant <i>Section 79 Environmental Protection Act 1990</i> <i>Section 78 Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005</i>	£75	0%

Environmental Permits

The fees for a Local Authority Air Pollution and Control Permit are statutory fees set under legislation under legislation and are not detailed in this delegated decision.

They are available on our website at;

www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/industrialairpollutioncontrol

Private Water Supply Charges

(not subject to VAT)

	Charge	% Variation
Risk Assessment	£48/hr	+ 4.3%
Sampling visit	£70.00 and actual cost of analysis	+ 2.9%
Carrying out an investigation (carried out in the event of test failure)	£48/hr and actual cost of analysis	+ 4.3%
Granting an authorisation (application by supply owner for permission to temporarily breach a standard whilst remedial work carried out)	£48/hr	+ 4.3%

Cost of analysis is dependant of the category of supply and the parameters being checked and is an independent charge set by the analysis laboratory.

Regulation 22 and Schedule 5 Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009

Financial Implications

Income for services is included in the overall budgets for Environmental Health services.

Risk Management

No specific risks have been identified with this report.

Key Decision: No

Background Papers: None