

Decision under Delegated Powers

Officer Making the Decision

Head of Governance & HR

Recommendation

That, following notification from Leicestershire County Council of increases in their charges for the elements of the local land search process that they undertake, the Borough Council's fees should be increased by approximately the same amount (ie. 8.7%), and that the scale of fees consequently be amended as follows, with effect from 1st April 2023 (or as soon as practicable thereafter):

<i>Detail</i>	<i>Current Fee</i>	<i>New Fee</i>
Standard Search Fee (including VAT)	£130.20	£141.50
Extra Parcel Full Search (including VAT)	£15.40	£16.70
LLC 1 Only (VAT exempt)	£27.00	£29.30
Extra Parcel LLC 1 Only (VAT exempt)	£1.00	£1.10
CON29 Only (including VAT)	£103.20	£112.20
Extra Parcel CON29 only (including VAT)	£14.40	£15.60
CON29O (Q4 to Q21) (including VAT)	£13.20	£14.40
CON29O (Q22) (including VAT)	£18.00	£19.20
Additional Enquiry (including VAT)	£18.00	£19.20

Reason

To recover the additional fees due to an increase in the relevant charges imposed by Leicestershire County Council and to increase the Borough Council's fees by the same percentage amount to ensure continued recovery of costs in light of pay awards and general inflationary cost increases.

Authority for Decision

Heads of Service have delegated authority within the Constitution to undertake the periodic review of fees and charges raised within his or her service area and falling within the scope of the Council's Income and Charging Policy Framework. (Section 8.2 item 1).

Additionally, the Head of Governance and HR has delegated authority to manage the local land charges function.

Decision and Date

Background

Leicestershire County Council have advised that they are increasing the fees for their elements of the land search process with effect from 1st April 2022 and it is therefore necessary to amend Charnwood Borough Council's fees to reflect these additional costs.

The Borough Council's own fees have not been increased for several years, and in light of additional costs arising from pay awards and general inflationary increases, it is now necessary to increase the Borough fees by the same percentage uplift as the County Council to ensure continued recovery of costs.

Comments from HR

Not applicable.

Financial Implications

It is estimated that any resulting increase in fee income will be offset by cost rises from officer pay awards and general inflationary pressures that the Council is facing.

Risk Management

No specific risks have been identified with this decision.

Key Decision: No

Background Papers: None