

**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 2016/17

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 delegated 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".

In January 2015, a review of all Environmental Health fees and charges was carried out in line with this requirement and took into consideration inflation, increases in direct costs and the charges made by other local authorities for the same service across the County. This review identified that the Council is significantly undercharging for a number of the Environmental Health services that are provided when compared to the actual cost of providing the service, and also the Council have some of the lowest fees and charges across the County for some of its Environmental Health services.

In order to sustain the existing service provision moving forward and cover a proportion of the costs it has been necessary for 2016/17 to propose the introduction of a charge for the treatment of bedbugs and cockroaches, and that those on specified benefits will no longer receive the treatment free of charge but at a 50% reduction. This is in line with the majority of other Leicestershire local authorities, and a consultation was carried out of those residents that had received the affected services in the last two years. Although some still wanted the service to be free of charge, 55% of respondents would have paid the proposed charge and 63% of respondents thought that the proposed charge was a fair charge.

The proposed Environmental Health fees and charges for 2016/17 have been consulted and agreed with the Lead Member for Regulatory Services and are set out below:-

LICENCE FEES

Animal Boarding Establishment <i>Section 1 Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963</i>	£80.00
Dog Breeding Establishment <i>Section 3A Breeding of Dogs Act 1973</i>	£80.00 Plus veterinary fees for new applications
Animal Boarding/Dog Breeding Establishment	£92.00 Plus veterinary fees on new applications
Keeping a Dangerous Wild Animal <i>Section 1 Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976</i>	£250.00 (New licence) Plus veterinary fees on new applications
	£80.00 (Renewal) Plus veterinary fees for licence renewals
Keeping a Riding Establishment <i>Section 1 Riding Establishments Act 1964</i>	£80.00 Plus veterinary fees on licence renewals
Keeping a Pet Shop <i>Section 1 Pet Shops Act 1951</i>	£80.00

REGISTRATION FEES

Acupuncture/Electrolysis/Tattooing/Ear Piercing (1 charge only, includes both practitioner and premises) <i>Section 14 and 15 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982</i>	£125.00
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FEES AND CHARGES FOR SERVICES

Pest Control Services (D)

Domestic Rodent Treatment	No charge
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Commercial Rodent Treatment	Min charge of £90 + VAT for initial visit and 2 revisits. Any further revisits will be charged at £42.50 + VAT per hour.
Commercial Rodent Contract	All contracts are based on a £42.50 + VAT charge per hour. The Basic Monitoring Contract includes 13 visits, and then an additional charge for any revisits that are required in between monitoring visits. The Full Monitoring Contract includes 26 visits and no additional charges.
Squirrels	£50 inc VAT for first and final visit £20 inc VAT for any additional in between visit. <i>50% reduction for those on specified benefits *</i> £25 inc VAT for first and final visit £10 inc VAT for any additional in between visit.
Domestic Bedbug Up to 3 treatment rooms	£60 inc VAT <i>50% reduction for those on specified benefits *</i> £30 inc VAT
For each additional room	£20 inc VAT <i>50% reduction for those on specified benefits *</i> £10 inc VAT
Domestic Cockroach Treatments	£60 inc VAT <i>50% reduction for those on specified benefits *</i> £30 inc VAT
Domestic Flea Treatments	£60 inc VAT <i>50% reduction for those on specified benefits *</i> £30 inc VAT
Domestic Wasp Treatments **	£50 inc VAT <i>50% reduction for those on specified benefits *</i> £25 inc VAT
Commercial Wasp Treatment **	£45.00 + VAT*
Commercial Premises Insect	£42.50 + VAT per hour.

Treatment (bedbugs, fleas and cockroaches)

* *The following are specified benefits:- Income Support, Pension Credit, Job Seekers Allowance (income based), Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support, or Universal Credit.*

** *Second and subsequent wasp nests on same site treated at time of first nest are charged at £12.00 (£6 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.

Dog Control Services

Collection & Kennelling of Stray Dogs Prescribed amount and administrative fee
£45.00*

Plus contractor's kennel fee (£9.60 per day) + any veterinary fees incurred.
Section 149(5) Environmental Protection Act 1990

*With the Head of Service having discretion to waive some charges in exceptional circumstances.

Training Courses (D)

CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering	£50
Re-take (once)	£15.00

Certificates

Voluntary Surrender of Unsound Food	
Certificate of Surrender (D)	£70.00
Certificate of Surrender and Collection/Disposal (D)	£70.00 + collection/disposal costs
Food Health Certificate (Export)	£70.00
Primary Authority Charge – Food Safety	£47.95 + VAT per hour

Environmental Protection Services

Alarm Disconnections - Requiring a Magistrates Warrant Section 79 Environmental Protection Act 1990 Section 78 Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005	£75 per hour
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Private Water Supply Charges (not subject to VAT)

Risk Assessment	£43/hr – maximum charge £500 Simple risk assessment and report typically 5 hours
Sampling visit	£65.00
Carrying out an investigation (carried out in the event of test failure)	£43/hr and actual cost of analysis – maximum charge £100
Granting an authorisation (application by supply owner for permission to temporarily breach a standard whilst remedial work carried out) Analysis	£43/hr – maximum charge £100
Small supplies under Regulation 10 (where supply provides <10m ³ /day or <50 people and is used for domestic purposes)	Actual cost of analysis – maximum charge £25
Large supplies/supplies to commercial and public premises. Check Monitoring (to ensure water complies with the standards)	Actual cost of analysis - maximum charge £100
Audit monitoring (additional parameters sampled less often to ensure the water complies with all safety standards)	Actual cost of analysis - maximum charge £500

Regulation 22 and Schedule 5 Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009

Financial Implications

Income for services is included in the relevant budgets across all Regulatory Services. It is estimated that these charges will potentially bring in additional income in the region of £3k. The Pest Control income Budget F210 for 2015/16 at Period 11 had a shortfall of approx. £1800. This additional income will cover this shortfall and contribute to increased costs in other budgets. This will be monitored over the next 12 months and budgets will be adjusted accordingly.

Risk Management

No specific risks have been identified with this report.

Key Decision: No

Background Papers: None