

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director (Development Services)

Report to:	Cllr William Webb, Exec Cllr (Highways & Transport)
Date:	03 November 2010
Subject:	New Service Charges
Decision Reference:	01792
Key decision?	Yes

Summary:

Following a recent review of Service Charges for Development Services, we are seeking approval to introduce four new areas of charging.

These have been agreed by the Development Services Director's Management Team, on the 16 July 2010 and subsequently Heads of Service.

Recommendation(s):

Approval to implement new charging with effect from 1 January 2011 in order to maximise its potential income.

Alternatives Considered:

1. To commence charging from 1 April 2011.
2. Not to impose any new service charges.

Reasons for Recommendation:

For Lincolnshire County Council to charge for services undertaken within its remit.

1. Background

- 1.1 In October 2009 it was decided that a full benchmarking review of current fees and charges for the provision of Development services, documents and publications should be undertaken. The decision to hold such a review followed advice issued by the Audit Commission in a 2008 report regarding the ways in which Council's can maximise their potential income given the current economic climate.

1.2 The Audit Commission 2008 suggested that Councils benchmarked their charging policies against other Authorities, which we have undertaken in full. Reviewing this data highlighted four areas where other authorities were consistently charging against our practices. This information with the aggregated recharge value from the other Authorities was presented to the Development Director's Management Team meeting held, 16 July 2010; at Appendix A column B, however, subsequently Heads of Service agreed differing values based on their local expertise in these areas, as column C. All were supportive of these new charges at column C rates.

2. Conclusion

We therefore seek approval for implementing new charge values from the 1 January 2011.

3. Legal Comments:

The proposed new service charges relate to matters within the statutory power of the Council as highway authority for Lincolnshire. The decision is within the remit of the Executive Councillor provided he has the delegated authority of the Leader.

4. Resource Comments:

Approval of this report will allow four new charges to be made for highway services. The level of charge has been determined by benchmarking with other local authorities to ensure Lincolnshire can maximise its income without being too onerous. The additional funding will enable existing funding to be either more effectively utilised or provide savings without detriment to service provision.

5. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

n/a

c) Scrutiny Comments

n/a

d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report

Appendix A	Director's Management Team (DMT), Heads of Service (HoS) - Agreed new charging areas
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7. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Benchmarking Review Services Fees & Charges 2009.	Support & Performance Management Section.

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