

**ENVIRONMENT AND REGULATORY SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION:
22 JANUARY 2021**

**2021-22 FEES AND CHARGES – ENVIRONMENT AND REGULATORY
SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

1. ITEM FOR DECISION

As part of the annual review of budgets, decisions are required to agree any non-statutory fees and charges for the forthcoming financial year.

2. POLICY FRAMEWORK

The decisions over fees and charges have to be within the constraints of the overall financial framework and the medium term financial plan. At the same time, decision making regarding the fees and charges must reflect a 'commercial' environment where there is a need to react swiftly and proactively to changing conditions. As a result, power to agree fees and charges, or to make formal arrangements for the setting of fees and charges within a Portfolio, is delegated to the Portfolio Holder.

3. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

The relevant Service Manager has implemented consultation procedures as appropriate for the various fees and charges applicable and the Portfolio Holder has been involved in the process or been notified of the outcome.

Specifically, this year further consultation has been carried out with the beach hut owners association and the charges identified in this report reflect those discussions. The proposed fees and charges for 2021-22 are attached as Appendix 1.

The Portfolio Holder's decision has due regard to any issues which have emerged from the consultation.

4. OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Garden waste collections were suspended for a 4 week period during the first lockdown and therefore the collection timetable for garden waste collections was extended by 4 weeks into April 2021 for the 2020/21 financial subscriptions.

It is important that we align the garden waste collections back to the financial year therefore this years collections will only be for a period of 11 months.

Costs of Garden Waste Collections have increased in 2020/21 in terms of fuel and wages and in a normal year it would be appropriate to increase subscriptions by around 8%. But as this licence period is only for an 11 month period, all garden waste subscription prices will be frozen at 20/21 prices.

The beach hut site rentals have been increased by around 3.7% and these have been agreed with representatives from the Beach Hut Owners Association. Also, following various requests to consider the charge for transferring the ownership of a beach hut, this

has now been reviewed for the third year running, which has seen reductions of £50 on the previous fee which has also been standardised across all sites.

Keyhaven, the mooring and launching fees have been subject to a previous Portfolio Holders decision as the annual fee commencement date has been moved back to 1st January to allow all Moorings to be fully allocated before the summer season.

The administration fee for family-organised interments has increased from £52 to £110. This is a relatively new fee and is in relation to families organising funerals themselves instead of through a funeral director. In reality, some of the help and guidance previously carried out by the funeral director and well as checking and submitting forms is now by the Cemeteries Office rather than the funeral director and therefore the cost of Officer time in doing this needs to be recouped.

Cemetery fees have been reviewed and compared against other local authorities. An important point to note in this report is the identification of a fee for children's burials, those under 18. In previous years the Council has never identified in its fees and charges any charge for children's burials as it did not to charge families for burials of Children under the age of 18 and only charged a nominal fee of £100 for the exclusive right of burial in relation to the purchase of a grave space and £160 for permission to erect a memorial.

With the introduction of the governments children's funeral fund the Council is currently unable to claim back the costs associated with a children's burial as these costs had not been identified in its fees and charges to date.

Therefore from 2021/22 the council has added these cost to its fees and charges for administration purposes only. The Council will continue with it's policy on not charging families for the burial of children under the age of 18 and will instead seek to recover these costs from the Children's burial fund. Previously, the Council charged the families of those who were under 18 and buried in our cemeteries a nominal fee for Exclusive right of burial (£100) and permission to erect a headstone (£160). These fees have now been increased to £800 and £164 but there will be no charge for those under 18 as again, this fee in full can be recovered from the children's burial fund.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Any financial implications will have been or will be reported as part of the ongoing Portfolio Plan and budgetary control.

The commercial waste charges will be agreed with the Portfolio Holder on a regular basis during the year to meet the needs of the service to make them competitive in the changing market.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER AND EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no implications arising directly as a result of this decision. Any impacts as a result of altered service delivery outcomes would have been reflected as part of the Portfolio Plan and budget setting processes.

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED: None

8. RECOMMENDATION

That the fees and charges attached as Appendix 1 be agreed and implemented from 1 April 2021, unless indicated otherwise.

9. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT

I have agreed to the recommendation of this report.

Sign: Cllr Alison Hoare

Date: 22 January 2021

For Further Information Please Contact:

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Date on which notice given of this Decision – 22 January 2021

Last date for call-in - 29 January 2021