

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

12 January 2011

Joint Report of the Director of Health and Housing, Director of Finance and Cabinet Member for Environmental Services

Part 1- Public

Executive Key Decisions

1 FEES AND CHARGES- UPDATE

This report advises Members of a proposed change in the stray dog redemption fee.

1.1 Stray Dog Redemption Fees

1.1.1 The stray dog redemption fee for 2010/11 was set at £65. Unfortunately, the increase was not implemented until December 2010 due to an administrative error. All other changes to fees and charges included in the report were implemented from April 2010. The oversight has resulted in a loss of income of £400.

1.1.2 Before the discovery of the failure to implement the increased fee, the Local Environmental Advisory Board, in November 2010, recommended an increase in the stray dog redemption fee for 2011/12 from £60 to £63 (including the statutory redemption fee of £25). This report should have asked Members to increase the existing and approved fee from £65 to £68.

1.1.3 I recommend that the stray dog redemption fee is set at £68 to commence from April 2011. The fee remains within the range of those neighbouring councils.

1.1.4 The anticipated revised annual income from the stray dog fees is expected to be £6,900.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 Remains as stated in the Advisory Board report of November 2010.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 The loss of income from April 2010 to December 2010 is not significant

1.3.2 The increase in fees proposed is intended to ensure that the income derived covers the costs to the Council in providing a service.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 The non implemented charge from April 2010 could have had significant risks to the council but fortunately the non-implemented fee was not of significant financial value. However, procedures must be put in place to prevent future fees from not being implemented.

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

1.5.1 Remains as stated in the Advisory Board report of November 2010.

1.6 Recommendations

1.6.1 Cabinet is **RECOMMENDED** to **APPROVE** an increase in the stray dog redemption fees from £65 (the current fee) to £68 with effect from 1 April 2011.

Background papers:

contact: Michael Campbell-
Lenaghan

Nil

John Batty
Director Health and Housing

Councillor Owen Baldock
Cabinet Member for Environmental Services

Sharon Shelton
Director of Finance

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The charges detailed in this report are payable by all members of the community. We retain the ability to provide some free services to those on means tested benefits.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	No	As above.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		Not applicable

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.