

**REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES – SUMMARY OF
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ADVISORY BOARDS**

**Item LEM 13/052 referred from Local Environmental Management
Advisory Board minutes of 26 November 2013**

**LEM
13/052**

**REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FEES AND
CHARGES**

The joint report of the Director of Street Scene and Leisure, the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health, the Director of Finance and Transformation and the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services set out details of the proposed fees and charges for the provision of services in respect of food certificates, stray dog redemption fees, Private Water Supplies, household bulky refuse collection, pest control and contaminated land monitoring.

RECOMMENDED: That the scale of charges for condemned food certificates, exported food certificates, contaminated land monitoring, sampling private water supplies, stray dog redemption fees and household bulky refuse collection, as detailed in the report, be approved with effect from 1 April 2014.

***Referred to Cabinet**

**Item LAA 13/048 referred from Leisure and Arts Advisory Board
minutes of 9 December 2013**

**LAA
13/048**

LEISURE FACILITIES - ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW TRUST

The joint report of the Director of Street Scene and Leisure and the Director of Finance and Transformation gave an update on the successful transfer of the management of the Council's main leisure facilities to a new Trust on 1 November 2013. Reference was made to the recruitment of the Board of Trustees and election of Mr Alan Nicholl as its first Chairman. It was noted that regular update reports on the performance of the Trust against the agreed outcomes would be presented to the Advisory Board.

The report also brought forward a review of the core charges for each facility and explained the basis on which the Trust's proposals could be made in accordance with the Management Agreement. It was agreed that in future the percentage increases be shown in the schedule of proposed charges.

Members expressed appreciation of the efforts of everyone involved in establishment of the new Trust.

RECOMMENDED: That

(1) the successful transfer of the management of the Council's main

leisure facilities to a new Trust be noted;

(2) the proposed core charges outlined in Annex 1 to the report be approved and implemented from 1 April 2014; and

(3) a report on the charges for Poult Wood Golf Centre be considered at the next meeting of the Advisory Board.

***Referred to Cabinet**

Item LAA 13/049 referred from Leisure and Arts Advisory Board minutes of 9 December 2013

**LAA
13/049**

LEISURE SERVICES - REVIEW OF CHARGES 2014/15

The joint report of the Director of Street Scene and Leisure and the Director of Finance and Transformation outlined the charging proposals in respect of Tonbridge Cemetery, Allotments in Tonbridge, Tonbridge Pitch Hire Charges, Tonbridge Castle Council Chamber, Weddings and the Summer Playscheme. Members were advised that the proposed charges took into account a range of factors including policy objectives for each facility/service, the Council's overall financial position, market conditions and customer feedback. Reference was made to the Council's Leisure Pass Scheme which enabled financially disadvantaged residents to participate in leisure activities at concessionary rates.

RECOMMENDED: That

(1) the proposed charges for Tonbridge Cemetery, as detailed at Annex 3 to the report, be agreed and implemented with effect from 1 April 2014;

(2) the proposed charges for Tonbridge Allotments, as detailed in the report, be agreed and implemented with effect from 1 October 2014;

(3) pitch hire charges at Tonbridge Sportsground be increased as outlined within the report for implementation from 1 April 2014;

(4) the proposed amendments to the list of Tonbridge Castle Chamber concessionary users, as set out at Annex 5 to the report, be approved;

(5) the proposed charges for Tonbridge Castle Chamber, as shown at Annex 7 to the report, be approved and implemented from 1 April 2014;

(6) the proposed charges for weddings in 2015/16 at Tonbridge Castle be agreed as detailed in the report; and

(7) the proposed charges for the 2014 Summer Playscheme, as detailed at Annex 9 to the report, be approved.

***Referred to Cabinet**

Item FIP 14/006 referred from Finance, Innovation and Property Advisory Board minutes of 8 January 2014

**FIP
14/006**

REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES 2014/15

The joint report of the Director of Finance and Transformation and Director of Central Services brought forward for consideration proposals in respect of those fees and charges which fell within the remit of the Cabinet Member for Finance, Innovation and Property and those where there was no appropriate Advisory Board.

RECOMMENDED: That

(1) in respect of the recovery of legal fees payable by third parties, the Council's fees continue to follow the Supreme Court guideline hourly rates as set out at paragraph 1.2.1 of the report;

(2) the proposed unchanged scale of fees for local land charges searches and enquiries set out at paragraph 1.3.5 of the report be adopted with effect from 1 April 2014; and

(3) the current photocopying charge of 10p (inclusive of VAT) for each page of the same document or additional copies of the same page plus postage as appropriate be retained.

***Referred to Cabinet**

Item FIP 14/007 referred from Finance and Property Advisory Board minutes of 8 January 2013

**FIP
14/007**

REVIEW OF FEES FOR STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING SERVICES

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Executive on a review of fees for Street Naming and Numbering services, responsibility for which had transferred to the GIS officer in IT Services.

RECOMMENDED: That the fee schedule for Street Naming and Numbering, as set out at Annex 2 to the report and summarised at paragraph 1.9.1 thereof, be adopted from 1 April 2014.

***Referred to Cabinet**

Item PE 14/002 referred from Planning and Transportation Advisory Board minutes of 20 January 2014

**PE
14/002**

BUILDING REGULATIONS FEES

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health which recommended that, following the significant review last year, the scheme of charges for the fee

earning aspects of the Building Control Service be held at their current level for 2014/15.

Members were updated on recent changes to the resourcing of the Building Control team and preliminary discussions regarding the potential development of a full shared service arrangement with Sevenoaks District Council.

RECOMMENDED: That the current Building Control fee scheme, as set out at Annex 1 to the report, be retained for the year 2014/15. ◀

***Referred to Cabinet**

Item PE 14/003 referred from Planning and Transportation Advisory Board minutes of 20 January 2014

**PE
14/003**

CAR PARKING FEES, CHARGES AND OPERATIONS

The report of the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health referred to the regular review of fees and charges for parking in the Borough in the context of current and planned service improvements and the operational management of the parking service.

It was noted that there had been no increase in parking charges in the Borough for two and a half years and the report reviewed all current and potential fees and charges. An appropriate way forward was recommended through a careful balance of considerations of parking management objectives and support for the local economy. Particular reference was made to the proposed retention of the current policy of not charging on Sundays or evenings, the current charges for business and residents preferential parking permits and on-street parking charges, and the 50p half hour stay band.

Members expressed concern about the increase in business rates to be borne by the Council in respect of its car parks and were advised that such information was being sought from all Kent authorities with a view to making representations to ministers.

RECOMMENDED: That the following proposals be approved with effect from April 2014: ◀

- (1) the schedule of tariffs for short and long stay parking in Tonbridge be introduced as shown in Table 1 of the report;
- (2) the schedule of season ticket prices shown in Table 2 of the report be adopted;
- (3) the schedule of tariffs for Blue Bell Hill car park shown in Table 3 of the report be introduced;
- (4) the schedule of prices for Haysden and Leybourne Lakes country

Annex 2

parks shown in Table 4 of the report be introduced;

(5) the maximum stay in the West Malling High Street car park be reduced from 4 hours to 3 hours; and

(6) any objections received by written representations to the administrative process of making the Off-Street Order be considered by the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation.

[In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 8.5 Councillor Cure requested that his vote against recommendation (4) be recorded.]

***Referred to Cabinet**