

## **REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR DISCRETIONARY PLANNING SERVICES**

### **Item HP 24/40 referred from Housing and Planning Scrutiny Select Committee of 3 December 2024**

The report of the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health set out proposed fees and charges for 2025/26 for the provision of services in respect of development management, building control, high hedges, s106 monitoring and the Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) and Charging Schedule with effect from 1 April 2025. Fees had generally been increased between 3.5% - 5 %, with fees for strategic development being increased by 10%. Consideration had been given to each category of fee and further explanation of these increases were detailed in the report.

In bringing forward the charging proposals for 2025/26 consideration had been given to a range of factors, including the Borough Council's overall financial and market positions, trading patterns, the current rate of inflation and customer feedback. A set of guiding principles for the setting of fees and charges had also been taken into account and were summarised in 4.2 of the report.

Particular reference was made to the Borough Council's significant and challenging financial position and as it was becoming increasingly difficult to achieve further expenditure savings to meet the targets in the Savings and Transformation Strategy it was essential that opportunities to maximise income were taken.

**\*RECOMMENDED:** That

- (1) the updated Pre-application Charging Fee Schedule 2025/26 (attached at Annex 1) be adopted;
- (2) the updated Building Control Fee Schedule 2025/26 (attached at Annex 2) be adopted;
- (3) the updated High Hedges Fees (an increase to £540) as set out in paragraph 5.12 be adopted;
- (4) the updated charging fees for s106 monitoring and compliance (representing an increase to £460 for each obligation contained in the agreement) as set out 5.17-20 be adopted;
- (5) the updated Planning Performance Agreement template (attached at Annex 3) be included as a new Annex 1 to the PPA Protocol;
- (6) the updated Planning Performance Agreement charging schedule (attached at Annex 4) be adopted; and
- (7) the above proposed fees and charges be implemented with effect from 1 April 2025.

**\*Recommended to Cabinet**