



London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Cabinet

2 SEPTEMBER 2010

**CABINET MEMBER
FOR RESIDENTS
SERVICES**

Councillor Greg Smith

**RESIDENTS SERVICES CHANGES TO FEES
AND CHARGES EFFECTIVE FROM 1
OCTOBER 2010**

**Wards
All**

This paper sets out proposed changes to Fees and Charges, together with new Charges effective from 1 October 2010.

CONTRIBUTORS

DFCS
ADLDS

Recommendations:

- 1. That the changes to Fees and Charges for Residents Services set out in Appendix A be approved.**
- 2. That approval of in year changes to Fees and Charges be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Residents Services where the impact on revenue is expected to be less than £100k.**

**HAS A PEIA BEEN
COMPLETED?
YES**

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A major Fees and Charges review was carried out at the end of last year, and as a result revised Fees and Charges were introduced from 1 April 2010. During this period, a number of service area reviews were in progress and as part of this exercise further detailed benchmarking information and full costing schedules were prepared. This work is now complete and a number of changes to Fees and Charges, particularly across Bulky Waste, Street Trading, Sports Bookings, RBDM, Library Concessions and Fulham Palace, have been identified. A number of new charges have also been identified in order to cover the cost of providing the service.
- 1.2 Proposed changes to fees and charges are set out in Appendix A. Reasons for the changes are also provided in Appendix A and these changes rang from:
- a) The need to cover costs
 - b) Benchmarking with other Authorities and Competitors
 - c) Reflecting the demand across the Borough
 - d) Improvements to facilities and the overall service provision

Bulky waste

- 1.3 An increase to Trade Waste charges for the collection of fridges and freezers is recommended. This is based on the increased size of average units for trade items compared to domestic models. This extra charge also reflects the increased storage charges for larger units not previously recovered.

Community Sports

- 1.4 It is recommended that Sports bookings for Out of Borough and Private School use is increased to ensure that VAT is recovered in full. Previously VAT was paid from the net cost of providing Sports Pitches and Facilities. This has resulted in an overall increase of 17 1/2 %.
- 1.5 Charges for Pitches in Hammersmith and Fulham are at the lower end compared to the overall London average. Incremental increases have been applied over the last two years to bring prices more in to line with other London boroughs. It is recommended that this approach continues, resulting in an average price increase of 11% effective from the 1 October 2010.
- 1.6 Charges for cricket pitches are in the lower quartile of London averages, and in order to address this an increase of 17% is recommended for weekends, weekdays and Bank Holidays charged as a flat rate.

- 1.7 A new charge has been introduced for Athletics and Sports day activities (with no markings) in order to recover administration and cleaning costs. This will go some way to reduce the unauthorised usage of the Parks for this activity.
- 1.8 It is recommended that a Group Training and Personal Training Annual Licence fee is introduced across many of the parks in order to regulate commercial activity by requiring coaches to satisfy qualification, CRB, Insurance and Health and Safety criteria. The new charges would be £920 and £300 per annum respectively.

Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages

- 1.9 It is recommended that new charges are introduced to cover the nationality checking service for Adults, Couples and Children, £40, £65 and £20 respectively. Hammersmith and Fulham is one of only two boroughs in London not offering this service and all proposed charges have been benchmarked across a selection of other Authorities.

Libraries

- 1.10 It is proposed that Library charges are applied to all Library members removing concessionary rates for all categories. Benchmarking has shown that many neighbouring boroughs make a full charge for concessions. The proposed increases are based on the need to recover administration costs of providing material, notifications and other similar charges.

Fulham Palace

- 1.11 The vast majority of bookings for Fulham Palace have already been confirmed and therefore it is recommended that Fees and Charges are introduced from 1 April 2011. A large volume of enquiries is expected after Christmas for bookings from April 2011 onwards and therefore the new Fees and Charges will need to be agreed in order that quotes and provisional bookings can be confirmed at the adjusted prices. The proposed increases are based on service and accommodation improvements together with continued high levels of demand for Fulham Palace as a major venue.

2. RESPONDING TO CHANGES IN THE MARKET PLACE

- 2.1 Traditionally, changes to Fees and Charges are made on an annual basis requiring Cabinet approval. Given the competitive nature of many services, it has become apparent that a more flexible approach to the setting of Fees and Charges would be more appropriate in order to take

advantage of market opportunities and tactical pricing policies adopted by our competitors.

3. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

3.1 All changes to Fees and Charges set out in Appendix A are supported by detailed reviews and full explanations. Detailed sales plans are now in place across all Income generating activities and during this process a full market assessment has been carried out which fully supports the recommended price changes set out in this report.

3.2 The sales plans forecast an increase in external Income of 17% for the year to 2010/11. This increase is partly dependent on the increased fees and charges set out in Appendix A. Failure to deliver the sales targets would put added pressure on delivering against the Income budget for 2010/11.

4. COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES)

4.1 The Council has the necessary powers to make changes for the above services. In the case of discretionary services, the changes to Fees and Charges are designed to cover costs as required by the Local Government Act 2003.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.	Schedule of Fees and Charges	Marianne Locke, Sue Harris , Dave Page	Residents Services
2.			

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