

5 March 2020**Agenda Item 6****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE****CHARGES FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SERVICES 2020/21****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval from Committee for the proposed charges for highway and transport services for 2020/21

Information**Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

2. The County Council has various, but limited, powers to levy charges / to recover its reasonable costs for various services associated with its duties as Highway Authority, as Street Works Authority and as Traffic Authority.
3. On 1 July 2016, Via East Midlands was tasked with delivering most of the highway services related to the charges outlined in **Appendix A** on behalf of the Authority. Where these charges cannot be transferred to the company for legal reasons, they continue to be coordinated by the retained Client within the Authority.
4. The annual review of charges for Highways and Transport Services has now been undertaken and the proposals are as set out in the attached **Appendix A**. Where service descriptions have changed the new description is highlighted using italics. Charges have been increased by an inflationary amount of 2.25% where appropriate.

Changes to Charging Structures

5. Several areas of charging have been reviewed and these are outlined below:

Residents and Visitors Parking Permits

6. Following a comprehensive review, the annual charge for a residents parking permit and the annual charge for a visitors parking permit will be increased from £25 to £35 per year. This reflects the fact that the price has not changed in the past 10 years and the costs involved in managing and policing the schemes have increased. Permits remain free for blue badge holders and residents over the age of 75. A virtual permit system is being introduced to facilitate short term and ad-hoc visitors to areas covered by residents parking schemes.

Street Works Permits

7. The charges associated with the forthcoming Street Works Permit Scheme for Nottinghamshire were approved by Committee following consideration of a separate report on 9th January this year.

Vehicle Access Licences

8. The charge for a license to construct a Vehicle Access includes the provision of Statutory Undertakers' Plans. Following a review, a rise in this charge from £75 to £100 is proposed to better reflect the cost of providing the service. A new charge of £250 is proposed for provision of a retrospective licence, where appropriate.
9. A new charge of £25 is also proposed, for the provision of historical licence records. This service would be provided mainly to solicitors and homebuyers, who wish to have documented assurance that existing vehicle accesses were created with the correct authorisations.

Skip Licences

10. It is proposed to reduce the charge for a Skip Licence from £38 to £35, but to provide the licence for a maximum of 14 days, rather than 28 days. This is to reduce the impact of skips on the road network by incentivising shorter durations and prompt removal.

Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs) and Notices (TTRNs)

11. Following a review, it is proposed to increase the charges for TTROs from £463 to £525, and for TTRNs from £355 to £380, to better reflect the costs of all activities associated with providing the service.

Pavement Café Licences

12. It is proposed to increase the charges for Pavement Café Licences from the current £200 (for the initial licence) and £100 (for annual renewal), to £250 and £150 respectively. The half price charge for cafes placing six or fewer seats on the pavement would remain. This is to better reflect the costs of providing the service, following a review of the first year of operating with an annual charging structure.

Accident Data

13. It is proposed that the Concise Report (£91 after inflation) and Full Report (£165 after inflation) be combined into a new report. This would be more comprehensive than the Concise Report but without the stories of the Full Report. It is proposed that the charge for this be set at £135, to reflect the expected costs of providing the service.
14. Currently, commercial organisations requesting accident data reports have a choice between a Concise Report, Full Report, or a more complex 'Plot' report that includes a copy of the Full Report. The Full Report contains 'stories', which provide a narrative description of the accident. The proposal would involve no longer including these stories in any reports provided, to minimise the risk of incorrectly implying the liability of any party.

Production of a Public Right of Way Order Plan

15. The charge for the production of a Rights of Way Order plan was introduced in the 2018 / 2019 Charges Report. The Order plan is used by developers and Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) for the purposes of diverting or extinguishing public rights of way under the Town and County Planning Act or the Highways Act. The production of an accurate legal plan by the County Council is time consuming and is compounded by a number of subsequent amendments from the developer and LPA. Following the second year of charging it is now proposed to increase the cost to reflect the time and resource required to produce a legal plan. The proposed charge is £50 per legal order plan.

Flood Risk Management

16. To improve the efficiency of our delivery of our Statutory responsibilities across the flood risk management function we are to charge for additional services relating to consent works to alterations of ordinary watercourses for which the application fee charge is set Nationally at £50. We are to put in place a range of chargeable services to assist applicants including compliance checking, property development of drainage strategies, pre-app advice and a Fastrack application service. £200 Fastrack fee will cover the turnaround of an application within two weeks and between £50-£250 for compliance checking, depending on the complexity of the works being approved. This approach has been adopted by many other Lead Local Flood Authorities and these services will be charged at cost.

Parish and Community Support

17. It is the continuing intention of NCC to support Parishes' seasonal decorations and the use of CCTV for community safety. NCC subsidises a £500 per parish allowance for work supporting seasonal decorations and has a £400 cap on CCTV charges where it is for reasons of Community Safety.

Bus Station Departure Charges

18. The annual bus stations departure charge increase was previously agreed by Portfolio holder in 2012 at CPI, capped at 2%. The proposed charges for 20/21 and 21/22 are to rise by RPI + 3% to meet increasing costs of running the bus stations. It is then proposed to increase charges by RPI from April 22/23.

Statutory and Policy Implications

19. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

20. If the proposals are confirmed, charges to the public for some of the Highway Services will be increased. The increases have been kept to a minimum and reflect the current financial climate and costs to the Authority for these services.

Financial Implications

21. If the proposed charges are made there will be no adverse financial impacts on the Authority. The changes reflect the costs of providing services and an inflationary increase where appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) Approval be given for the proposed charges for highways and transport services, documents and data for the financial year commencing 1 April 2020 as detailed in the **Appendix** to the report.
- 2) All charges for highways services continue to be reviewed annually and also as may be required consequent on any change in circumstances.

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Corporate Director, Place

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Constitutional Comments (SJE & EP 28/01/2020)

22. This decision falls within the Terms of Reference of the Communities & Place Committee to whom responsibility for the exercise of the Authority's functions relating to the management and maintenance of highways (including traffic management) has been delegated. The Council is able to charge for services which it is empowered, but not obliged, to provide (i.e. discretionary services) on a cost recovery basis. Where charges are made for discretionary services, arrangements should be put in place and fully documented in a form approved by Legal Services.

Financial Comments (SES 28/01/2020)

23. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 20 of the report and the attached **Appendix**.

24. As detailed in section 3.1.5 of the Authority's financial regulations, charges and fees should be reviewed at least once a year having regard to any statutory provision for such charges and fees. The revised fees must be agreed by the relevant Committee.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Report to Portfolio holder for Transport and Highways, Bus station departure charges 07/02/2012

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All