

16th March 2017**Agenda Item: 13****REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE****CHARGES FOR HIGHWAYS SERVICES 2017/18****Purpose of the Report**

1. To outline the outcomes of the review of the charges for services which Highways provide and seek approval from Committee to the charges for 2017/18.

Information and Advice**Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

2. The County Council has powers to recover its reasonable costs in the preparation and publication of documentation and data through the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. Similarly, Local Authorities have been able to charge for various services associated with their duties under the Highways Act 1980 and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. These powers have been supplemented by the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991, the Local Authorities (England) (Charges for Land Searches) Regulations 2008 and the Local Authority (Transport Charges) Regulations 1998. Additionally, there are general powers for charging for discretionary services through the Local Government Act 2003.
3. On July 1st 2016, Via East Midlands was tasked with delivering the majority of the 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 co-ordinated by the retained Client.
4. The annual review of charges for Highways 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 increased by inflation, except where charges are set by statute.

Changes to Charging Mechanisms

5. The requirement for charging statutory undertakers for closing a zebra, to ensure they are able to carry out their works safely, has been identified. This service will be provided at cost to these bodies. Where there has been a national directive to add VAT to the provision of a service, such as land searches, this has also been reflected in the charging mechanism.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service 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

7. 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 and reflect the current financial climate and costs to the Authority for these services.

Financial Implications

8. If the proposed charges are made there will be no adverse financial impacts on the Authority.

Equalities Implications

9. None

Crime and Disorder Implications

10. None

Human Rights Implications

11. None

Safeguarding of Children Implications

12. None

Human Resources Implications

13. None

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

14. None

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) Approval be given for the proposed charges for highways services, documents and data for the financial year commencing 1 April 2017, 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.

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments [SLB 07/02/2017]

15. Transport and Highways Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments [RWK 09/02/2017]

16. Financial implications are set out in paragraph 8.

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.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All