

Decision of:	Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs)
Decision Number:	PH25/2017
Relevant Officer:	Alan Cavill, Director of Place
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Gillian Campbell, Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs)
Date of Decision:	15 March 2017

LIBRARY FEES AND CHARGES 2017/2018

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the Fees and charges for the Library service for the financial year 2017/18.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree the fees and charges as set in Appendix A for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, noting that for most charges a nil increase is proposed.
- 2.2 To introduce a new category of Library Membership with effect from 1 April 2017 at a cost of £20 per year.
- 2.3 To introduce a visitor charge of £2 per day for the use of Blackpool Libraries' ICT facilities and withdraw the previous the £10 annual charge.
- 2.4 To agree that the fees and charges approved at recommendation 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 above can be reduced from the agreed charges on the published officer decision of the Director of Place after consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member. This would include the adding of additional discounts.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 There is a need to increase the income from the service to ensure that the Council remains within the Revenue Budget set for 2017/18.

The fees proposed reflect the costs of providing and the introduction of a new category of Library membership will provide create more choice for users while

allowing the service to keep other fees and charges as low as possible.

The delegation of potential reduction of fees and charges to the Director of Place allows flexibility in responding to market conditions and the possibility of trialling future amendments.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

Not to make any changes to fees and charges.

To reconsider the exemptions criteria.

To increase the fees and charges by a different rate.

To introduce new categories for increasing income.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience".

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The proposed fees and charges outlined at Appendix A have been formulated based on a full review. The fees were previously reviewed on 12 July 2016 (decision PH51/2016) refers. That decision included a number of increases that were relatively large due to the fees remaining static for many years and in light of this it is not proposed to increase many of fees and charges. It has been proposed though to introduce a new category of membership

5.2 A new category of library membership is recommended to be introduced, at a cost of £20 per year. The membership would be linked to the Library Management System, and residents would receive a special library membership card. The premium membership will be introduced on or after 1 April 2017 and a full publicity campaign and launch would be undertaken

5.3 Discounts would be available in the Central Library café, the Art Gallery shop, for library meeting room hire and reservation fees for books ordered through the

National Inter-Library Loan scheme. One extra hour of computer access per day will be offered, as well as the loan of spoken word material free of charge. Residents would be able to apply in person at any library or on line through the Council's website.

5.5 Some offers would have limited spaces and would be allocated on a first come first served basis, and this will be made clear in the literature provided.

5.6 The library service hopes to attract new membership through the scheme as well as offering further incentives to existing customers. This would allow the service to provide additional services to those members who wished them while ensuring other fees and charges were kept as low as possible.

5.7 The reintroduction of a £10 visitor charge in 2016/17 resulted in the service losing many potential customers and income. Nationally no other public libraries charge for visitors to loan material (a basic library service). The change of this to a £2 daily charge for visitors to use the library ICT facilities is considered a more appropriate way of increasing income and supporting a further increase in footfall.

5.8 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.9 **List of Appendices:**

Appendix A: 2017/18 Proposed Fees and Charges for the Library Service

6.0 **Legal considerations:**

6.1 Library Charges (England and Wales) Regulations 1991
Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964

7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None.

8.0 **Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None.

9.0 **Financial considerations:**

9.1 The proposals do not present any risk to the revenues based on income generation over the last 3 years. It is hoped that these changes will contribute towards the income target set for 2017/18.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.

14.0 Key decision information:

14.1 Is this a key decision? No

14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

14.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

14.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

15.0 Call-in information:

15.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

15.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed: N/A Date approved: N/A

17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

17.1 None

18.0 Executive decision:

18.1 The Deputy Leader of the Council agreed the recommendations as outlined above namely:

1. To agree the fees and charges as set in Appendix A for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, noting that for most charges a nil increase is proposed.
2. To introduce a new category of Library Membership with effect from 1 April 2017 at a cost of £20 per year.
3. To introduce a visitor charge of £2 per day for the use of Blackpool Libraries' ICT facilities and withdraw the previous the £10 annual charge.
4. To agree that the fees and charges approved at decisions 1, 2 and 3 above can be reduced from the agreed charges on the published officer decision of the Director of Place after consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member. This would include the adding of additional discounts.

18.2 Date of Decision:

15 March 2017

19.0 Reason(s) for decision:

There is a need to increase the income from the service to ensure that the Council remains within the Revenue Budget set for 2017/18.

The fees proposed reflect the costs of providing and the introduction of a new category of Library membership will provide create more choice for users while allowing the service to keep other fees and charges as low as possible.

The delegation of potential reduction of fees and charges to the Director of Place allows flexibility in responding to market conditions and the possibility of trialling future amendments.

19.1 Date Decision published:

15 March 2017

20.0 Executive Members in attendance:

20.1

21.0 Call-in:

21.1

22.0 Notes:

22.1