

Notice of:	Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Climate Change
Decision Number:	PH13/2020
Relevant Officer:	John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Fred Jackson, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Climate Change
Date of Decision:	18 February 2020

FEES FOR DOG WARDEN, PEST CONTROL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION 2020/21

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 The proposed fees and charges for the Community and Environmental Operations, relating to the Dog Warden, Pest Control and Environmental Protection (Works in Default and Copy Notices) charges for 2020/2021.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree the proposed fees and charges for Community and Environmental Operations relating to Dog Warden and Environmental Protection (Works in Default and Copy Notices) charges, which are detailed in Appendix 'A', with effect from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.
- 2.2 To agree the proposed fees and charges for Community and Environmental Operations relating to Pest Control which are detailed in Appendix B, with effect from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.
- 2.3 To agree that the fees charged can be varied by the Director of Community and Environmental Services, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Climate Change as a result of market changes.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The proposed fees and charges have been reviewed and reflect the increase in materials and administration. The fees have not been increased for a minimum 2 years and represent the real cost of providing essential services.

The services will continue serving the most vulnerable residents of Blackpool where case by case difficulties and affordability will be taken into account in addition to discounted rates for those residents claiming benefits.

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:

To not increase the fees and charges will impact on the sustainability of the service.

4.0 Council Priority:

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

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Pest Control Service continues to provide a meaningful and affordable service for the residents of Blackpool. The service operates as a non-statutory service to residential and businesses clients but is also essential for inter-departmental council services. Buildings occupied by the council are subject to pest control requirements and the service is able to act swiftly to provide what would otherwise be an externalised contractor for all works.

5.2 The Dog Warden Service is responsible for all dog related issues presented to the council. A statutory responsibility is to provide kennelling for stray, lost and found dogs. The fees recognise a 50 % discount should the reclaiming of a stray dog be claimed back whilst still in the custody of the dog warden reducing officer and kennelling associated charges. All other fees include for the true cost of providing the service and meets the cost of kennelling which requires reserved spaces for Blackpool Council 365 days per year.

5.3 Environmental Protection Services are required to undertake environmental works in default of notices issued to the owners of subjected land. The default works are re-charged to the owner of the land and an administration charge added which reflects some of the cost of the officer's time in pursuing the notice and administrating the land clearance. Copy notices are often requested where multiple owners or

interested parties have an interest in the land. The fees reflect the officer and administration necessary to meet requests for this information.

5.4 Service charges in relation to Pest Control have not been increased since 2016. Costs for pesticides have increased above inflation, the new charges reflect this increase along with the increase in labour costs and remains very competitive compared with external companies. In addition, risk assessments identified some duties require two operatives this cost was being subsidised through other service personnel.

5.5 The fees for rats and mice treatments is a substantial percentage increase as the existing fee did not reflect the expense in providing three visits per treatment including the baits and traps which were being used. Three visits is a minimum commitment which through planned appointments offers good value for money.

5.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.7 **List of Appendices:**

Appendix A – Dog Warden and Environmental Protection Services Fees and Charges 2020/2021

Appendix B – Pest Control Services Fees and Charges 2020/2021

6.0 **Legal considerations:**

6.1 None.

7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None.

8.0 **Equalities considerations:**

8.1 The proposals are in line with the Equalities Analysis.

9.0 **Financial considerations:**

9.1 The increase in fees and charges proposed will help to meet the cost of the service and ensure its sustainability.

10.0 **Risk management considerations:**

10.1 To not increase will impact the sustainability of the service.

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:

Date approved:

17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

17.1 None.

18.0 Executive decision:

18.1 The Cabinet Member agreed the recommendations as outlined above namely:

1. To agree the proposed fees and charges for Community and Environmental Operations relating to Dog Warden and Environmental Protection (Works in Default and Copy Notices) charges, which are detailed in Appendix 'A', with effect from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.
2. To agree the proposed fees and charges for Community and Environmental Operations relating to Pest Control which are detailed in Appendix B, with effect from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.
3. To agree that the fees charged can be varied by the Director of Community and Environmental Services, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Climate Change as a result of market changes

18.2 Date of Decision:

18 February 2020

19.0 Reason(s) for decision:

The proposed fees and charges have been reviewed and reflect the increase in materials and administration. The fees have not been increased for a minimum 2 years and represent the real cost of providing essential services.

The services will continue serving the most vulnerable residents of Blackpool where case by case difficulties and affordability will be taken into account in addition to discounted rates for those residents claiming benefits.

19.1 Date Decision published:

18 February 2020

20.0 Executive Members in attendance:

20.1

21.0 Call-in:

21.1

22.0 Notes:

22.1