

<b>Decision of:</b>	<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE</b>
<b>Decision Number:</b>	PH25/2021
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Tim Coglan, Head of Public Protection
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Jim Hobson, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change
<b>Date of Decision:</b>	26 February 2021

## COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FEES AND CHARGES 2021/22

### 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 2021/22.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree the fees and charges for Community and Environmental Operations relating to Dog Warden, Pest Control and Environmental Protection ( Works in Default and Copy Notices) charges, which are detailed in:-  
Appendix 'A'. Dog Warden and Environmental Protection Notices  
Appendix 'B'. Pest Control Services with effect from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The proposed fees have been reviewed in light of service demand, inflation and value for money for residents. Pest Control charges to businesses have been frozen.

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.

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

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

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

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

**5.0 Council Priority:**

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

**6.0 Background Information**

6.1 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.

6.2 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.

6.3 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.

6.4 The proposed fees and charges are set out in

Appendix 'A'. Dog Warden and Environmental Protection Notices  
Appendix 'B'. Pest Control Services

6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

Appendix 'A' – Dog Warden and Environmental Protection Services.  
Appendix 'B' – Pest Control Services

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

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

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

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

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 The proposals are in line with the Equalities Analysis submitted with the General;

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

**15.0 Key decision information:**

15.1 Is this a key decision? No

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

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

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

**16.0 Call-in information:**

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process?

No

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

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

**17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):**

Date informed:

Date approved:

**18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):**

18.1 None

**19.0 Executive decision:**

19.1 The Cabinet Member agreed the recommendation as outlined above namely:

To agree the fees and charges for Community and Environmental Operations relating to Dog Warden, Pest Control and Environmental Protection ( Works in Default and Copy Notices) charges, which are detailed in-

Appendix 'A'. Dog Warden and Environmental Protection Notices

Appendix 'B'. Pest Control Services with effect from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

**20.0 Date of Decision:**

20.1 26 February 2021

**21.0 Reason(s) for decision:**

21.1 The proposed fees have been reviewed in light of service demand, inflation and value for money for residents. Pest Control charges to businesses have been frozen.

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.

**22.0 Date Decision published:**

22.1 26 February 2021

**23.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

23.1

**24.0 Call-in:**

24.1

**25.0 Notes:**

25.1