

DECISION RECORDING FORM

DECISION: Building Control Fees

Increase Building Control Fees by an average of 2%

REASON FOR DECISION:

Maintain cost recovery for Building Control activity. Building Control fees were last changed in 2019 with no increase in 2020. The 2.75% pay award has impacted upon the budget with staff salaries being the service's single highest cost. This 2% change seeks to ensure the service broadly covers its costs but is not uncompetitive in terms of pricing.

DECISION BY:

Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration (Councillor Richard Chesterton)

CONSULTEES

WARD(S)	All
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HAS/HAVE WARD MEMBER(S) BEEN CONSULTED	NO

COMMENTS OF OTHER CONSULTEES

Recommendation agreed by Building Control Partnership Joint Services Committee

DATE OF DECISION	18 November 2020
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EXEMPT INFORMATION	No

FINANCIAL, LEGAL & EQUALITY ISSUES, IF ANY:
<p>The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance sub-divides the Building Control Service into chargeable and non-chargeable activities. The Local Authority costs charged to the chargeable activities are those that relate solely to the issue of statutory Building Regulation notices relating to deposited applications and the carrying out of statutory site inspections. All other costs are charged to the Non-Chargeable Activities. 75% of the costs incurred by Building Control are related to this core activity.</p> <p>The Regulations cited as the Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 2010, require each Local Authority to prepare a scheme for the recovery of Building Control Charges with a view to ensuring that the chargeable activities are self-financing over any consecutive three to five year period.</p>

RISK ASSESSMENT
<p>Any increase in fees can impact on market share adversely impacting the profitability of the service. However this must be balanced against the need to be self-financing. A benchmark review of Local Authority fees across the SW Region has been carried out suggesting average fee per job is one of the highest and therefore there is limited scope to increase fees and remain competitive. This is against a picture of improving market share in 2020.</p>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / DOCUMENTS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT:*
Report to meeting of Building Control Partnership Joint Services Committee meeting 12 th November 2020

SIGNED Richard Chesterton

DATE 18 November 2020