

DECISION RECORDING FORM

DECISION:

Introduce an overall rise of Building Control fees by 8%, effective Immediately (January 2023)

REASON FOR DECISION:

Building Control fees were last increased in 2022 and, since that time, significant cost inflation and operational pressures have affected the Building Control service. This fee uplift is therefore required in order to ensure the continuation of an effective service and to maintain cost recovery for Building Control activity.

DECISION BY:

Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration, Councillor Richard Chesterton

CONSULTEES**WARD(S)**

All

HAS/HAVE WARD MEMBER(S) BEEN CONSULTED

No

COMMENTS OF WARD MEMBER(S)**COMMENTS OF OTHER CONSULTEES**

Fee increase of 8% also agreed by North Devon Council (our partner organisation)

DATE OF DECISION	19/01/2023
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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 marketshare adversely impacting the profitability of the service. However, benchmarking with other Local Authorities has been carried out and the fees remain competitive.</p> <p>The fee increase is deemed necessary in order to continue to provide the level and quality of service required. The risk of not increasing fees, and thereby losing skills/capacity, is deemed to be higher than the risk associated with increasing fees.</p>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / DOCUMENTS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT:*
None
<small>*additional means additional to anything containing exempt information</small>

SIGNED: Councillor Richard Chesterton (Member or officer taking decision)

DATE 19/01/2023 (of decision)