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Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment)  
Planning Committee

23 March 2015  
2 April, 2015

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment) – Councillor Maton

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Executive Director, Place

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Title: Place Directorate Fees and Charges 2015/16 – Business, Enterprise and Employment Portfolio**

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

This report seeks approval for increases in Fees and Charges from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, for a number of services within the Business, Enterprise and Employment portfolio. The changes being proposed are in line with the revised Charging Policy approved by Cabinet Member (Strategic Finance and Resources in July 2013) having been benchmarked against other similar providers where applicable. Details are provided in this report.

**Recommendations:**

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

1. Approve the new fees/charges with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 in respect of the Street Trading Pedi-Cycle hire as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of this report.
2. Acknowledge the increase in Section 106 agreement administration fee/charge as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of this report; and
3. Request that Planning Committee at its meeting on 2 April 2015 considers and approves the increase in Section 106 agreement administration fee/charge as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of this report.

Planning Committee is requested to consider and approve the increase in Section 106 agreement administration fee/charge as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of this report

**List of Appendices included:**

None

**Other useful background papers:**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

Yes – Planning Committee – 2 April, 2015

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

**Report title:  
Place Directorate Fees and Charges 2015/16 – Business, Enterprise and Employment Portfolio**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Council Policy states that all charges should be at least full cost recovery and in line with benchmarking against other providers, whilst giving due consideration to the impact of pricing changes on demand and overall income achievable.
- 1.2 The recommendations in this report are based on the application of this policy to the charges for Place Directorate services within the Business, Enterprise and Employment portfolio.
- 1.3 The corporate inflation rate assumed for income generating activity in the 2015/16 budget setting process is an average of 2.7%. This is based on the Government’s (ONS) RPI(Y) Indices. Any increase at or below this level do not require formal approval, and are not therefore included within this report.

**2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 The preferred option and recommended proposal is to increase the charges for the following services:

Service Area	Fee / Charge	Basis	Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Avg Increase %	Additional Projected Income pa £000's
Planning	S106 Agreements (Admin Fee)	Per Agreement	3%	5%	66.7	10.0
New Charges	Street Trading - Pedi-Cycle Hire	Daily charge per pedi-cycle	-	£15 - £50	NEW	2.4
					<b>Total</b>	<b>12.4</b>

**Planning - S106 (Admin Fee)**

It is proposed that the fee structure for section 106 agreements is changed to ensure that the Council is not subsidising the cost of monitoring these agreements as far as possible. It is proposed to increase the section 106 agreement monitoring fee from 3% of the development value to 5%. This will allow the Council to pass on a greater proportion of the cost of administering the agreements to developers.

**Street Trading - Pedi-Cycle Hire (New Charges)**

The Street Trading Team acquired a crate of rickshaws which have been converted into pedi-stalls as part of the street trading offer and available to let from the Market. The pedi-stalls won Market Innovation of the year Award at the National Markets Conference 2014.

The pedi-stalls are available for a variety of uses ie the sale of single products, information and display and are an interesting addition to the street trading offer in the city centre. The price charged is based on a sliding scale dependant on user and location.

### **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1** Consultation and notification will be undertaken in accordance with normal practise with affected groups to inform them of any revised charges prior to them coming into effect. If consultation highlights any significant issues then these will be reported to the Cabinet Member for a decision prior to implementation.

### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

- 4.1** If approved, the increase in fees will be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

### **5. Comments from Executive Director of Resources**

#### **5.1 Financial implications**

The increase in fees is based on full cost recovery and benchmarking with the nearest geographical or statistical neighbours. Based on projected activity, the proposals are estimated to generate £12.4k per year in additional income.

In some cases, the additional income is required to recover the cost of service provision inflation. The remainder will contribute to the Council's corporate income inflation target or reducing income target pressures.

#### **5.2 Legal implications**

The Council has specific charging powers under functional legislation. Where a specific power doesn't exist then the Council can rely on its power to charge for discretionary services under S.93 Local Government Act 2003 provided no profit is generated and the recipient agrees to receive the service subject to the relevant charge.

Under the 'Local Authorities (Functions & Responsibilities)(England) Regulations 2000 (as amended)' and the Council's Constitution, certain functions covered by this report and the setting of fees/charges relating to those functions have been delegated to the Council's Planning Committee. A decision on these 'non-executive' items cannot be taken by Cabinet Member and will need to be taken by Planning Committee

### **6. Other implications**

#### **6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?**

Increasing fee income within a consistent agreed policy will enable the Council to better meet key objectives and help to protect frontline services provided to residents and local communities. This also supports the corporate key transformation objective of ensuring that the Council's medium term financial strategy provides the resources to meet its priorities, delivers a balanced budget and equips the Council to face the future with confidence.

#### **6.2 How is risk being managed?**

On-going monitoring of the impact of fees and charges on service take up and total income will be undertaken as part of operational business.

**6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?**

An increase in financial resources will ensure delivery of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and support the work and priorities of the Council.

**6.4 Equalities / EIA**

The impact will need to be assessed at the time that consideration is given to specific increases in fees and charges.

**6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment**

No direct impact.

**6.6 Implications for partner organisations?**

Some partner organisations may incur increased charges.

**Report author(s):**

**Name and job title:**

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Resources Directorate

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Members: Councillor Maton	Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment)	Coventry City Council	4/3/15	4/3/15

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