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Meeting	Cabinet Resources Committee
Date	2 April 2014
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Street Scene Fees and Charges for 2014/2015</b>
Report of	Cabinet Member for Environment
Summary of Report	To approve new and revised fees and charges for 2014/15.

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Officer Contributors	Lynn Bishop – Street Scene Director Cory Sunderland – Performance & Monitoring Support Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All
Key Decision	Yes
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	
Function of	Executive
Enclosures	Appendix A – Street Scene Fees & Charges
Contact for Further Information:	Cory Sunderland, Performance & Monitoring Support Officer (020) 8359 3014

## **1. RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 That the Cabinet Resources Committee consider the proposed fees and charges as detailed in Appendix A and approve them for implementation from 1 April 2014, or as soon as possible thereafter.**

## **2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 2.1 Cabinet Resources Committee, 23 September 2004 (Decision item 6) – agreed that increases in fees and charges above the rate assumed in the Financial Forward Plan be approved by the Cabinet Resources Committee.
- 2.2 Cabinet Resources Committee, 25 February 2013 (Decision item 7) – agreed That the Director for Place be authorised, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet members, to make changes to the Charging Schedule as detailed in Appendices A, B and C of the report subject to consultation findings and Appendix D (Equality Impact Assessments) (EIA) as required to progress through approval and adoption by the Committee to take effect from 1 April 2013, or as soon as practicable.

## **3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 Fees, charges and allowances need to be reviewed to ensure value for money thereby complying with the 2013-2016 Corporate Plan priority ‘To maintain a well designed, attractive and accessible place, with sustainable infrastructure across the borough’.

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- 4.1 The fees and charges proposed within this report are for discretionary services and so are based on recovering the costs incurred by the Council in providing those. Efforts have been made to limit the charge increases and consideration has been given to the charges adversely affecting demand for the service as well as the need to recoup the cost of providing the service. There will nonetheless remain an element of reputational risk and risk of challenge.

## **5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 5.1 Notifications in respect of annual increases to fees and charges are the subject of public notice; this enables all residents to be made aware of the increase in charges and their applicable date of change. The proposed above inflation and new fees and charges were published online, between the 25 February and 20 March 2014, on the consultation portal for residents’ feedback and comments prior to implementation. No feedback was received from residents.
- 5.2 An equalities impact assessment screening has been actioned and no adverse impacts, to any group, have been identified.

## **6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 6.1 The impact of increased fees and charges will be taken into account in the 2014/15 revenue monitoring and the 2015/16 forward plan process.
- 6.2 All fees and charges go towards recouping costs for delivering the service.
- 6.3 All prices listed do not include VAT, which will only be charged where indicated.

## **7. LEGAL ISSUES**

- 7.1 Local authorities have a variety of powers to charge for specific statutory services set out in statute.
- 7.2 The Local Government Act 2003 also provides a power to trade and a power to charge for discretionary services, the latter on a costs recovery basis. Discretionary services are those that a local authority is permitted to provide under statute but is not obliged to do so.
- 7.3 Where authorities have a duty to provide a statutory service free of charge to a certain standard, no charge can be made for delivery to that standard, however delivery beyond that point may constitute a discretionary service for which a charge could be made.

## **8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS (Relevant section from the Constitution, Key/Non-Key Decision)**

- 8.1 Council Constitution, Responsibility for Functions, paragraph 4.6 highlights the functions and responsibility of the Cabinet Resources Committee, which includes Capital and revenue finance, forecasting, monitoring, borrowing and taxation.

Paragraph 4.3.8 of the Council's Financial Regulations requires that the Cabinet Resources Committee 'approve changes to fees and charges that are significantly different from inflation, the introduction of new fees and charges, and changes to fees and charges outside the normal annual cycle.' Under paragraph 4.3.9 of the same Regulations, 'Chief Officers may approve changes to fees and charges annually where the change is broadly in line with inflation', and it is also noted that the date for annual increases does not need to be 1 April.

## **9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 9.1 Fees and charges are reviewed annually as appropriate. Changes can be agreed by the relevant director in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member however, increases exceeding the rate of inflation need to be reported to and agreed by the Cabinet Resources Committee.
- 9.2 The increase in price, for the initial 1100 litre bin per 5 flats, was incorrectly calculated last year. The proposed charge for approval takes this into account as well as the increased cost that needs to be recouped.
- 9.3 Due to the change in usage for the majority of our netball courts to multisport courts we have amended our fees and charges to accommodate the change.

- 9.4 With growing interest from not for profit groups to run fitness activities in parks a charge to cover the administration costs has been added. These Groups will be required to provide proof of insurance and assurance or evidence that they have not for profit status.
- 9.5 The charges for Tree Inspection Services have been revised from half or full day prices to an hourly rate with minimum charge to better reflect users requirements. A reduced price is offered for LBB schools to encourage the take up of this service.

## **10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 None

<b>Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials)</b>	<b>JH</b>
<b>Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials)</b>	<b>PM</b>