


## URGENT DECISION FORM



<b>Date:</b> 1 APRIL 2020		<b>Ref No:</b>	
<b>Type of Decision:</b>			
<b>Executive Decision</b>	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Key</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Non-Key</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Subject matter: FEES AND CHARGES</b>			
<b>Reason for Urgency</b> <i>[must be completed]</i> :  Fees and charges across the council are due to increase on 1 April. The decision to apply an inflationary increase was made prior to the COVID-19 crisis. Any decision to freeze fees and charges at their 2019/20 need to be made urgently to avoid bills at a higher level being issued.			
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b> [Does this decision change policy, procedure or working practice or negatively impact on a group of people? <b>If yes</b> – complete EIA and summarise issues identified and recommendations – forward EIA to Corporate HR]		No	
<b>Decision taken</b>  Fees and charges for 2020/21 remain at the 2019/20 for a period of 6 months after which they will be reviewed.			
<b>Decision taken by:</b>		<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

Chief/Senior Officer	  	
<b>After consultation with:</b>		
Cabinet Member (if a Key Decision) or Chair or Lead Member (as appropriate)		
If it is a Key Decision, the Chair of Scrutiny Committee to agree that the decision cannot be deferred	Cllr R Caserta consulted	2.4.2020
Nominated Opposition or Majority Group Member of Internal Scrutiny Committee (if a Key Decision) or Opposition Spokesperson	Cllr N Jones consulted	2.4.2020
Leader of second largest Opposition Group	Cllr T Pickstone	2.4.2020

In line with business as usual practices, inflationary increases in fees and charges have been agreed for a range of services across the council. These are to be applied from 1 April 2020. The decision to apply an inflationary increase was made prior to the COVID-19 crisis and in light of the crisis and the economic impact on many individuals across the borough a review of the position is considered necessary.

The council has the option to continue with the inflationary or to freeze them at 2019/20 levels for a period of time, after which they can be reviewed. From a budgetary perspective, a planned inflationary increase was not factored into the budget and therefore there is not direct impact on the council's budget for 2020/21. The wider impact in relation to fees and charges is that demand has reduced and, in some cases, service provision ceased. This is creating a financial pressure on the council's budget that will need to be managed and is largely out of the control of the council.

#### **Recommendation**

**It is recommended that fees and charges for 2020/21 remain at the 2019/20 for a period of 6 months after which they will be reviewed.**