

# RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM EXECUTIVE/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE

## DELEGATED POWERS OUTLINED IN THE CONSTITUTION



<b>DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION TAKEN BY:</b>	Strategic Director of Environment & Operations
<b>DELEGATED BY:</b>	Executive (date of delegation) 29-11-23
<b>IN CONSULTATION WITH:</b>	Executive Member
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	Growth and Development

**SUBJECT: Increase in Highways Fees and Charges**

### 1. DECISION

To increase fees and charges with effect from 1 January 2024 for a variety of Highways services which are delivered in accordance with the following legislation:

- Local Authorities (Transport Charges) Regulations 1998
- Charges under the Highways Act 1980
- Charges under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991
- Charges under the Signs and Tourism Signs RTRA s.65(1)

### 2. REASON FOR DECISION

The cost associated with the delivery of Highways services has increased significantly in the past year, specifically the service has had to contend with increases in vehicle, fuel and staffing costs. The cost of materials has increased by up to 40%. The Council is also having to manage financial challenges due to inflationary pressures on budgets which are unfunded.

### 3. BACKGROUND

The Highways service is a statutory service and is legally responsible for undertaking a range of duties relating to the highways and footpaths within the Borough, including:

- Maintaining all highways classed as being “maintainable at public expense” within the Borough.
- Maintaining records of all “highways maintainable at public expense” within the Borough.
- Regulating the activities of developers in relation to the highways.
- Keeping the surface of public rights of way which are maintained at public expense in a fit state for public use.

- Ensuring obstructions are removed and adequate warning signs are in place for any dangers on the road.
- Maintaining bridges over natural watercourses

The cost of delivering these services has increased significantly, in particular, the cost of materials to repair and maintain the Highways have increased by up to 40% due to inflationary pressures. The highways service has also seen significant increases in vehicle, fuel and staffing costs.

#### **4. KEY ISSUES AND RISKS**

The cost of delivering the service has increased significantly due to inflationary pressures on a range of budgets, particularly the cost of materials to repair and maintain the highways

The proposed increases to fees and charges will help to offset the increased costs of delivering these statutory services.

Further information is available via the background document 'Highways Fees and Charges 2024' or from the report author

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The increase in Highways charges and the additional income generated aligns with the Council's Corporate Plan and the supporting mission to tackle the budget challenge. The increases in fees and charges will generate an additional £60,000 income in 2024/25

#### **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Council as the Highways Authority can legally make a charge for a range of highway services and can readily justify the proposed changes for inflationary reasons.

#### **7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

These are existing services, the resources required are already in place to increase the fees and charges for these services.

#### **8. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

An option to not increase Highways fees and charges was considered, this was rejected because the costs of delivering Highway services have increased significantly due to inflationary pressures.

#### **9. CONSULTATIONS**

The Executive Member for Growth and Development has been consulted on the increase in fees and charges.

**10. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

All Declarations of Interest of the officer with delegation and any Member who has been consulted, and note of any dispensation granted should be recorded below:

<b>VERSION:</b>	<b>1</b>
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<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Martin Eden/Joanne Byrne</b>
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<b>DATE:</b>	29 November 2023
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<b>BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:</b>	Highways Fees and Charges 2024
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