

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
CABINET REPORT – 18 AUGUST 2010

**CHARGES FOR SERVICES – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
AND TRADING STANDARDS**

Report by Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for revised charges for certain services in Environmental Health and Trading Standards provided within Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 1998, the Council approved a policy on charging based upon the Accounts Commission publication 'The Challenge of Charging'. In the light of this, it is necessary to review charging taking into account current markets, comparable costs of other authorities for such services and the impact on the customer base while ensuring a balance between business and social principles and objectives.
- 2.2 Services are required to ensure a consistent approach to the setting of charges and the revised charges contained in the appendices of this report have been developed within the principles of the Challenge for Charging Checklist.
- 2.3 The report covers charges for Pest Control in Environmental Health and the wide range of charges in Trading Standards including petroleum fees and metrological fees. Other areas of the services have been assessed and a new charge for information provided under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 is proposed.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Pest Control Charges

- 3.1.1 On 26 March 2008 Cabinet approved the proposal to reduce the charges for Pest Control Work in the anticipation of attracting a greater volume of business and service uptake. At that time there had been a perceived decrease in the uptake of service requests of the Pest Control Service due to commercial competition charges at that time and the public perception of the level of the charge.

- 3.1.2 It was anticipated that there would be a significant increase in the amount of service requests for Pest Control following the decision to reduce charges. There has been an increase in uptake, although not to significant levels which may in part be due to poor summer weather in previous years. Uptake levels for the Service have continued to be assessed during the summer months of 2010 – 2011 and activity figures for the last three years are as undernoted.

Pest Control Activity

Year	Number of Treatments
2007/08	1367
2008/09	1500
2009/10	1653
2010	1029 (to July 2010)

The impact of the reduction in pest control charges in uptake of service and income terms has not significantly materialised.

- 3.1.3 A comprehensive benchmarking exercise has been completed relative to Pest Control Charges levied by Councils throughout Scotland and this information is attached. A wide variety of charges is exhibited, however East Ayrshire Council at current levels of £30.00 per treatment is below the average charge.
- 3.1.4 It is proposed to increase pest control charges as outlined in Appendix 1 to reflect current costs of the service, the fact that there has been no increase in charges over the last two years and also to reflect current average charges made by other Councils throughout Scotland.

3.2 Trading Standards

- 3.2.1 The Trading Standards Service charges for a wide range of Weights and Measures (metrological) parameters and petroleum licences. Petroleum licence fees are set by statute and the fees for 2010/11 are set out in Appendix 2.
- 3.2.2 The current and proposed Metrological Fees are set out in Appendix 3 and reflect a 2% increase in charges for the various services provided. The increase is in line with neighbouring authorities and reflects the fact the fees must remain competitive with other Trading Standards authorities to ensure that traders use local facilities.

3.3 Environmental Information Requests

- 3.3.1 Under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 local authorities may make reasonable charges for the provision of environmental information which includes information relative to contaminated land details and reports for example. Requests for information are usually from businesses who will in turn be utilising information received for commercial purposes. Any charge should reflect the costs for location, retrieval and

copying of information which for some requests can have significant resource implications.

3.3.2 A benchmarking process has been carried out with responses received from eight Councils with charges varying between £50 to £113 for information requests.

3.3.3 It is proposed to introduce a new charge for environmental information requests of £75.00.

3.3.4 The new charge will be made public on the Councils website and disseminated through the usual information portals.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The proposed charges will increase income to the Council while reflecting the economics of providing services at affordable and competitive prices.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Challenge of Charging Checklist has been used together with a full benchmarking process to ensure that the council's policy on charging has been fully implemented.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Certain fees are based on statutory instrument and require to be implemented as is the case with Petroleum fees. Other fees are reflected in the statutory requirement to provide specific services.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 The requirement to generate income has been assessed and balanced with the need to provide and promote services within the Environmental Health and Trading Standards services. Statutory charges relating to Petroleum Fees has also been verified and taken into account as part of the process.

8. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Environmental Health and Trading Standards provide a wide range of services and the proposals are consistent with the aims in the Community Plan relative to the Environment and Community Safety.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet

- (i) approve the proposed charges outlined in Appendices 1 to 3 and introduce a new charge for provision of Environmental Information requests
- (ii) otherwise note the content of this report.

Alex McPhee
Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support

AMcP//PLT/SMcD

30 July 2010

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Challenge of Charging – Service Manager’s Checklist

Any person wishing further information should contact David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services on 01563 576161 or by e-mail to David.Mitchell@east-ayrshire.gov.uk. or Paul Todd, Regulatory Services Manager on 01563 554021.

PEST CONTROL CHARGES

	CURRENT CHARGE	PROPOSED CHARGE 2010/11
RAT INFESTATION	Domestic : £30.00 Commercial : To be charged according to circumstances following survey	£35.00
MICE INFESTATION	Domestic : £30.00 Commercial : To be charged according to circumstances following survey	£35.00
ERADICATION OF WASPS/BEEES NEST	£30.00	£35.00
ERADICATION OF INSECT INFESTATION	£30.00	£35.00
FUMIGATIONS	To be charged according to circumstances	

NB. Charges are exclusive of VAT

Rodent treatments will include up to three visits.

TRADING STANDARDS

PETROLEUM FEES

Licence Categories	Fee 2009/2010	Fee 2010/2011
Under 2,500 litres	£41.00	£42.00
2,500 litres to 50,000 litres	£57.00	£58.00
50,000 litres and over	£118.00	£120.00
Transfer of Licence	£8.00	£8.00

Petroleum Fees are laid down by Statutory Instrument.

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL – TRADING STANDARDS METROLOGICAL FEES 2010/2011	Fee 2009/2010	Fee 2010/2011
A – Chargeable Cost Recovery Rate Per Officer Hour		
<p>The 2010/2011 guidance is based on a chargeable rate of £69.84 per Officer hour, designed to facilitate full cost recovery. When a visit is made by a Trading Standards Officer to any premises for the purpose of carrying out any of the functions or activities listed below, each visit may be subject to a minimum charge of £69.84 per Officer per visit regardless of the nature or amount of work requested or completed. Visits carried out partly or entirely outside of normal office hours may incur a surcharge of 50% on the standard fee or on the standard hourly rate per Officer per hour.</p>	£68.47	£69.84
B – Special Weighing and Measuring Equipment		
<p>The charges for examining, testing, certifying, stamping, authorising or reporting on special weighing or measuring equipment may be individually calculated by a local authority based upon a figure of £69.84 per officer/hour at the place where the service is provided. Such types of equipment, specifically excluded from tables (C) to (I) below, include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Automatic or totalising weighing machines 2) Equipment designed to weigh loads in motion 3) Bulk fuel measuring equipment tested following a Regulation 65 or 66 occurrence 4) Weighing or measuring equipment tested by means of statistical sampling 5) The establishment of calibration curves from templets 6) Templets graduated in millilitres 7) Testing or other services in pursuance of a Community obligation other than EC initial or partial verification 	£68.47	£69.84
C - Weights		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Weights exceeding 5kg or not exceeding 500mg, 2CM 2) Other Weights 	£7.87 £5.79	£8.02 £5.91

D – Measures		
1) Linear measures not exceeding 3m, for each scale	£8.91	£9.09
2) Capacity measures, without divisions, not exceeding 1 litre	£6.02	£6.14
3) Cubic ballast measures (other than brim measures)	£150.54	£153.55
4) Liquid capacity measures for making up and checking average quantity packages	£23.80	£24.28
5) Templets: (a) Per scale – first item	£41.69	£42.52
(b) Second and subsequent items	£16.08	£16.40
E – Weighing Instruments		
a) Non-EC		
Not exceeding 1 tonne	£54.03	£55.11
Exceeding 1 tonne to 10 tonne	£87.37	£89.12
Exceeding 10 tonnes	£182.82	£186.48
b) EC (NAWI)		
Not exceeding 1 tonne	£89.95	£91.75
Exceeding 1 tonne to 10 tonne	£145.45	£148.36
Exceeding 10 tonnes	£304.70	£310.79
<p>Note: When testing instruments incorporating remote display or printing facilities, and where completion of the test requires a second person or a second series of tests by the same person, an additional fee may be based upon the basic fee given above plus a 50% surcharge.</p> <p>Note: When supplying specialist equipment (including but not limited to weighbridge test unit, van and test weights, etc) an additional fee may be charged hourly, daily or per appointment, according to circumstance.</p>		
F – Measuring Instruments for Intoxicating Liquor		
1) Not exceeding 150ml	£14.85	£15.15
2) Other	£17.13	£17.47

G – Measuring Instruments for Liquid Fuel and Lubricants		
1) Container type (unsubdivided)	£62.12	£63.36
2) Single/multi-outlets (nozzles): First nozzle tested, per site	£101.35	£103.38
Each additional nozzle tested	£62.22	£63.46
3) Testing of peripheral electronic equipment on a separate visit (per site)	£68.36	£69.73
4) Testing of credit card acceptor (per unit, regardless of no. of slots/nozzles/pumps)	£68.36	£69.73
H – Road Tanker Fuel Measuring Equipment (above 100 litres)		
1) Meter measuring systems		
a) Wet hose with two testing liquids	£217.49	£221.84
b) Wet hose with three testing liquids	£253.76	£258.84
c) Dry hose with two testing liquids	£241.65	£246.48
d) Dry hose with three testing liquids	£277.90	£283.46
e) Wet/dry hose with two testing liquids	£338.31	£345.08
f) Wet/dry hose with three testing liquids	£362.48	£369.73
2) Dipstick measuring systems		
a) Up to 7,600 litres (for calibration of each compartment and production of chart) (NB: for any compartment over 7,600 litres, basic fee plus additional costs at the rate of £69.84 per extra officer/hour).	£148.02	£150.98
b) Initial dipstick	£17.13	£17.47
c) Spare dipstick	£17.13	£17.47
d) Replacement dipstick (including examination of compartment)	£37.60	£38.35
I – Certificate of Errors		
For supplying a certificate containing results of errors found on testing (Certificate supplied upon request of the submitter; fee applies when no other fee is payable)	£34.21	£34.89

Benchmarking

Pest Control Charges 2010

COUNCIL	COMMENTS	CHARGE
Stirling	Rats, Mice, Insects (exc public health pests - fleas, bed bugs)	£ 32.30
	Commercial	£ 32.30 + £28.20 per hour
Dundee City	Pest Control Charges Income required to match Expenditure £294,000 for 11/12	£ 56.75 - normal hours £ 86.10 - out of hours
East Renfrewshire	Wasps/Intruder Insects No charge for rodents inside property	£ 36.35 £18.00 for each additional treatment
South Ayrshire	Pest Control Services Domestic owner/occupier Council Tenants (Housing) Private Commercial Local Authority Commercial	£46.25 £ 97.84 £ 97.84 £97.84
Highland	Domestic Premises Commercial	£ 46.91 + VAT More than 1 hour = £34.88 per hour £51.33 + VAT More that 1 hour = £51.33 per hour
Fife	Domestic Commercial Advice on Site	£ 40.00 £50.00 per hour + materials £20.00 - Domestic £25.00 - Commercial

COUNCIL	COMMENTS	CHARGE
East Lothian	No Pest Control Service in House No charge to Council householders	Nil
Aberdeenshire	No Pest Control Service Preferred Contractor	
North Lanarkshire	No Charge	Nil
Glasgow	Charge only for wasps (in house commercial work)	-
Scottish Borders	Rats, mice, wasps etc	£ 38.00 + VAT
Moray	Wasps/Bees Fleas Other Pests	£ 30.00 + VAT £ 75.00 + VAT £ 38.00 + VAT
Edinburgh	Wasps Rats/Mice (3 visits) Fleas Bedbugs Ants, Woodlice Cockroaches (3 visits) Squirrels (1 week trapping) Moles (trapping)	£ 54.00 + VAT £ 73.00 + VAT £ 73.00 + VAT £100.00 + VAT £ 61.00 + VAT £ 79.00 + VAT £151.00 + VAT £151.00 + VAT
Perth & Kinross	Part of Council wide contract	
Shetland	All pest control Subsequent visits	£ 50.00 £ 10.00 each
West Lothian	Currently no charge? <u>Proposals</u> Wasps Mice Rat Fleas Other insects	Ongoing Review £ 35.00 £ 50.00 £ 50.00 £ 50.00 £40.00

COUNCIL	COMMENTS	CHARGE
Angus	Rats/Mice Insects/Wasps	£ 30.84 £ 24.68
Falkirk	From 10 April 2010 Commercial Domestic	£34.10 (including VAT) £29.40 (including VAT)
Dumfries & Galloway	2010/11 Domestic Commercial	(no number of limited visits) £ 35.00 + VAT £44.00 + VAT per visit
Orkney	No In house Service Directed to Private Sector & Enforce where necessary	
Inverclyde	3% Increase for 2010/11 Rats/Mice Wasps Nest Free for public health pests (fleas & bedugs) No concessions (pensioners)	£ 45.89 (+ VAT) up to 3 visits £ 36.74 (+ VAT) with £18.35 for additional nests
North Ayrshire	Rats/Mice – Domestic Rats/Mice/Insects – Commercial Wasps/Bees/Insects – Domestic Fumigations (Under Review)	£ 47.00 + VAT (3 visits) £ 47.00 + VAT £ 29.00 + VAT £ 58.00 per treatment
Aberdeen City	Housing Private Dwellings: Rodents & Insects (Domestic)	Annual Charge £ 51.00 + VAT (per hour or part of an hour)

	Other – Land and Premises	£ 51.00 + VAT
Midlothian	Rats, Mice, Wasps, Bees (carried out by Commercial Services Division not environmental health)	£ 33.49 (Follow-up treatments - £5.99 per visit)
East Renfrewshire	Rats/Mice & Insects of public health significance Wasps, ants	FREE £ 36.35 (additional nests £18.18)

BENCHMARKING GROUP

CURRENT PEST CONTROL CHARGES

	<u>Wasps Nest</u>	<u>Rats/Mice</u>
East Ayrshire	£ 30.00	£ 30.00
North Ayrshire	£ 29.00	£ 47.00 (under review)
South Ayrshire	£ 46.25	£ 46.25
West Lothian	£ 35.00	£ 50.00 (proposed)
East Renfrewshire	£ 36.35	£ Nil
Inverclyde	£ 36.74	£ 45.89
	(£18.35 for additional nest)	

PEST CONTROL CHARGES - 2010

PRIVATE PEST CONTROL FIRMS

Company 1 : £85.00 plus VAT
Company 2 : £70.00 plus VAT and mileage
Company 3 : £85.00 plus VAT and mileage

(Charges for wasp nests)
(Firms contacted and details retained)

Paul L Todd
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