

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 5TH FEBRUARY 2004

REVENUE BUDGET 2004/05

CHARGES FOR SERVICES

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Committee approve increased charges for services provided by the department.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 In December 1998, the Policy and Resources Committee approved a policy on charging which was based on the Accounts Commission publication 'The Challenge of Charging' (March 1998). The appendices to this report have been developed in accordance with the principles of this policy, taking into account such factors as current markets, comparable costs of other local authorities and the impact on customer demand.
- 2.2 Appendices 1 to 12 outline the existing and proposed charges for services on a service by service basis.
- 2.3 The increases submitted for approval will raise income by an average of slightly less than 6%.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 It is difficult to accurately predict additional income since there are many factors outwith the control of the Council which can influence income levels during the year but it is felt that the increases, if approved, will meet planning assumptions.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The legislation relating to charges for services where appropriate can be summarised as follows:-
- i) Licensing – Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982
 - ii) Waste Management – Environmental Protection Act 1990
 - iii) Pest Control – Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949
 - iv) General - Local Government (Goods and Services) Act

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This review of charges has been carried out in line with the Council policy on charging for services.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 As part of the normal base budget process for 2004/2005 a number of income lines which relate to charges were increased. This report consolidates the position taking into account relevant factors for each charging area.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-
- (i) subject to the approval by Special Council on 12 February 2004 of the General Services Revenue Estimates 2004/2005, agree that the proposed charges outlined in Appendices 1 to 12 be implemented from 1 April 2004; and
 - (ii) that the report be otherwise noted.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

16th January 2004

WS/JS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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