



REPORT TO: MORAY COUNCIL ON 6 MARCH 2024

SUBJECT: CHARGING FOR SERVICES

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND FINANCE)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To ask Council to approve revised charges for Council services for 2024/25.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Council in terms of Section III (B) (1) and (48) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to financial policy and the setting of charges.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Committee approves the charges for Council services for 2024/25 set out in paragraphs 3.3 to 3.4.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The current Charging for Services Policy was approved by Council on 12 December 2023 (paragraph 7 of the draft Minute refers). Under the policy, an annual revision of charges is required. In order to preserve the Council's financial position, charges within the control of this council are generally inflated annually and Council at the same meeting agreed that the default increase for 2024/25 would be 5.7%.
- 3.2 When charges for 202/25 were approved by Council on 24 January 2024 (paragraph 8 of the minute refers) it was noted that two charges remained to be considered: Fit Life and burial grounds. Charges for Fit Life are dealt with in paragraph 3.4 of this report, with burial grounds charges anticipated to be reported to Council on 27 March 2024. In addition a new charge for Citizenship Ceremonies is proposed, in paragraph 3.3.
- 3.3 **A: Corporate / Cross Departmental**
A16 A – Citizenship ceremonies
Citizenship Ceremonies are held monthly by the Registration Service at no cost to the individuals. Increasingly the Service is being asked to hold individual ceremonies outwith the monthly date. There were 7 individual ceremonies in 2023. This is mainly due to individual travel reasons.

The Senior Registrar surveyed other Local Authorities in Scotland and of those who responded the majority advised that they charge for carrying out individual Citizenship Ceremonies, with the charges ranging from £20 to £185 per ceremony. It is proposed that the Council start charging £75 for each individual ceremony requested, however if it is an individual ceremony for a couple or a family the charge would still be £75.

3.4 C: Leisure facilities

- C1 – Fit Life. Discussions have taken place with Moray Leisure Ltd on increase of charges for Fit Life. The charges below are recommended as acceptable to Moray Leisure Ltd, thus allowing the current integrated Fit Life scheme to continue. However, a further review of charges may be recommended as part of the review of Leisure and Libraries services which will be reported to members when concluded.

C1		Current charge	Proposed charge 2024/25
C1a	Membership cards Individual – 12 months	£276	£288
.	Individual – monthly direct debit	£23	£24
C1b	Family (1 adult) – 12 months	£360	£384
.	Family (1 adult) – monthly direct debit	£30	£32
	Family (2 adults) – 12 months	£384	£408
	Family (2 adults) – monthly direct debit	£32	£34

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

The levying of charges for Council services is an essential component of delivering Council priorities on a sustainable basis.

(b) Policy and Legal

The current policy for charging for Council services was approved by this Council on 25 October 2023. There are no legal implications arising from this report. Some charges are set or limited by legislation.

(c) Financial implications

Increased income from charges will contribute to the Council's financial sustainability.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report.

(f) Property

There are no property implications arising from this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

There are no equalities implications or implications for the socio-economic duty arising from this report. Proposed Fit Life charges are still at a very low level compared to other fitness schemes. A link to the Integrated Impact Assessment is provided: [IIA Fit Life](#)

(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts

There are no implications for climate change or biodiversity arising from this report.

(i) Consultations

All services have been consulted as to recommended charges and reasons for any departures from the default increase.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 Two proposed charges are itemised above.

Author of Report:

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Background Papers:

Ref:

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