

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member and Advisers for Regeneration and Development
2.	Date:	Monday 3 March 2014
3.	Title:	Amending Fees and Charges for Provision of Highway Services
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

For the Cabinet Member to consider amending the current fees and charges made for a range of highway services.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member approves the revised charge for the provision of a licence and temporary traffic regulation order (TTRO) to allow for the:

- i. Placement of a builder's skip and container on the highway.
 - ii. Installation and maintenance of apparatus, and the making of an excavation in the highway.
 - iii. Construction of permanent and temporary vehicle access crossings in the highway.
 - iv. Installation of scaffolding and hoarding in the highway.
 - v. Regulation of traffic during planned and unplanned (emergency) activities on or near the highway.
-

7. Proposals and Details

Properly licensed highway services help fulfil the aims of the Local Transport Plan and the Traffic Management Act in terms of helping to keep the highway safe and reduce disruption.

A review has been carried out to benchmark the appropriate cost of providing highway and street works licences and the cost of arranging a TTRO against 11 other local authorities including Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield.

The charges at this time are summarised below along with the proposed increases which would be within the range of charges currently made by these authorities.

- i. The fee for a licence to enable skip companies to place a skip on the highway for 2 weeks was increased from £15.00 to £17.50 in April 2011. The proposed new fee is £20.00. The City of York currently charge the highest fee of £30.00 for a skip placement of 2 weeks.
- ii. The proposed increase in fee for a street works licence for a utility service provider is from £450 to £500 and an increase in fee for a highways licence for a trial hole is proposed from £300 to £400. The increases would still be £50 less than Sheffield City Council's current fee for each licence.
- iii. The proposed fee increase for a licence to construct a permanent vehicle access crossing at a residential premise, which involves dropping kerbs is from £50 to £60. For a temporary vehicle access crossing at a development site for construction vehicles, a fee increase from £100 to £120 is proposed. These increases would be within the range currently made by neighbouring authorities.
- iv. The proposed increase in fee for the permission to install scaffolding and hoarding in the highway is from £150 to £170 for 2 weeks, plus £50 per additional 4 weeks. Barnsley Council currently makes the highest charge of £205 for 2 weeks plus £50 per each additional week.
- v. The proposed fee increase for a TTRO for a planned activity is from £800 to £900 which includes a fee for the required advertisements in the press. This proposed increase would remain in the mid range of charges made by neighbouring authorities. The proposed increase for an emergency TTRO is from £625 to £700. Calderdale's fee is £730 for a planned TTRO.

8. Finance

The proposed increase in fees and charges for licences and TTRO's would increase income by approximately £24,000 per annum.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There is a small risk that the proposed new fees and charges may be resisted, particularly by skip companies who are regular applicants. The charge for a licence to place a skip has not been increased for 3 years, and on an annual basis we write to regular applicants to keep them informed. Subsequently, it is felt that resistance will be minimal as these increases would be within the range currently made by neighbouring authorities.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The initiative is in full accord with the LTP3 objectives and the requirements of The Traffic Management Act 2004.

Licensing activities in the highway helps support the clean streets and safer and well maintained roads objectives in seeking an improved environment.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

1. The Highways Act 1980
2. The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA)
3. The New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA)
4. The Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA)
5. The Street Works (Inspection Fees) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2009.
6. LTP3 (2011-2015)

Contact Name : Colin Knight, Highway Network Group Manager.
colin.knight@rotherham.gov.uk