FEES AND CHARGES PROPOSALS 2016-17

APPENDIX D

Type of Charge	Comment	Detail of Revised Fee / Charge	
WELLBEING DIRECTORATE			
Adult Social Care	Whilst charges are adjusted annually in light of the anticipated year's costs of providing services, it is a requirement that the charges reflect the actual costs of delivering services. It is therefore not possible to increase costs simply on the basis of an inflationary amount. Irrespective of the calculated charges for services, the amount an individual pays for any services is based on a financial means test, and for non-residential services is capped in line with the Fairer Charges (Wales) regulations. The cap is £60 for 2015-16 irrespective of the total cost of all services provided to an individual.	TBA	
COMMUNITIES DIRECTO			
Pre- Application Planning Advice	Under the Wales Planning Act 2015, Welsh Government is introducing by March 2016, a national mandatory paid preliminary pre-application enquiry service (PE) for all development including householder schemes. The fees will be set nationally and are proposed to be similar to the fees currently charged under the Bridgend scheme, although the level of detail required in the response under the national scheme is below that which is currently provided under the existing Bridgend service. Bridgend was one of the first authorities in Wales to introduce a paid PE service and the fee level has remained the same for over 5 years. There is scope for BCBC to review its PE service in order to provide a more bespoke response in addition to that proposed within the mandatory national scheme. This will include an increase in fees to reflect the level of information required. The concept of local planning authorities (LPAs) providing a PE service over and above the national scheme is supported by WG and it is a matter for each LPA to set its own charges. The new fee structure will be subject to further consideration but will be no less than 15% above existing rates in line with the national increase in general planning fees as introduced by Welsh Government in October 2015. It is proposed to introduce the revised service in April 2016.	Full details of the revised PE structure will be provided following further consideration and will be subject to a separate Cabinet report. Additional categories of advice for proposed development introduced as part of the WG mandatory scheme (not currently part of the BCBC scheme) :- Householder advice £25 New dwellings (1-9) £250 Rural enterprise dwellings £250 Commercial Development (500- 100 sq mtr floor area) £250	
Building Control Searches	Historically, officers have provided this information free of charge to search	Search information	

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	companies and individuals. This has resulted in a considerable work pressure on staff and consequently a computer programme was developed in order to provide easy, remote access to search information free of charge on-line via the Council's web pages. However, some companies and individuals continue to request this information via the FOI process. It is considered necessary to introduce a reasonable retrieval charge to cover staff time in providing this information, which could otherwise be sought free of charge.	administration fee £25
Planning Application Fees	Planning applications fees are set nationally by Welsh Government and an across the board increase of 15% was implemented in October 2015. Welsh Government predicted that this increase (the first since 2009) would translate into an average of £80k additional income for local planning authorities. In Bridgend's case, based on the average fee income for the period 2010-2015 this equates to approximately £78k.	15% increase.
Porthcawl Marina Mooring Fees	Plans to increase the fees for berth holders by 5% as part of a progressive approach to reducing the subsidy on the Marina. During 2015-16 the Marina has been required to pay National Non Domestic Rates which had not been the case prior to the redevelopment of the facility. The charges for berth holders remain competitive when compared to other facilities across the coast. There is also a waiting list in operation for people wanting to occupy vacant berths that arise.	5% increase
RESOURCES DIRECTOR	ATE	
Property Rental Charges	There are contractual arrangements in place in relation to market units / garages / some starter units where rental charges are increased in line with CPI / RPI. Of the remainder of properties rental charges are dependent on rent reviews and assessed against market value of property and not indices.	