

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Executive - 4 December 2008

Report of the Financial Services Manager

Fees and Charges 2009/2010

This matter is the joint responsibility of Executive Councillors Mullins, Smith and Prior-Sankey

1	Executive Summary
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| 1.1 | The proposed fees and charges for 2009/10 are laid out in this report. The Executive is requested to recommend these charges to Full Council. |
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2 Introduction

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is for the Executive to consider the proposed fees and charges for 2009/10 for the following services:
- Cemeteries & Crematorium,
 - Waste Services,
 - Land Charges,
 - Housing,
 - Licensing,

3 Proposed Increases for 2009/2010

- 3.1 Appended to this report are the detailed proposed charges for each service as outlined above. The results of both the 2006 and 2007 public consultation events "Your Council, Your Views" clearly indicated that the public prefer to see increases in fees and charges, rather than in Council Tax, as a way for the Council to raise income. Therefore, where possible, fees have been increased to take these views into account.

3.2 Cemeteries & Crematorium (Appendix A)

It is proposed that the main cremation fee be increased by £27 to £536. This will generate additional income of an estimated £60k. Other fees have been largely increased by 5.3%, which will generate a further £10k of income. Members should note that this increase is included within the savings plans considered by the Executive elsewhere within this agenda and is ranked as a category 2 saving.

3.3 Waste Services (Appendix B)

For Garden Waste Bins the fees are proposed to increase from £25 to £35, this is expected to generate a further £79k in income. The £35 fee is still £10 below the economic cost of providing the service to users. In addition the charge for paper sacks is proposed to increase from £10 to £15. The charge for the bulky household waste service is also proposed to increase to £15.

3.4 Land Charges (Appendix C)

Given the current economic climate it is proposed to keep land charges fees the same as the current year. This coupled with the recent downturn in

demand for the service should mean that the land charges service breaks even overall, which is in line with Government expectations, and which will be brought into legislation in the near future.

3.5 Housing (Appendix D)

For 2009/10 in an attempt to ensure that the Housing Revenue Account follows the same timetable as the General Fund it is proposed to request members approval now on the proposed increases in charges rather than incorporating it into the overall budget proposals which will be considered in detail in the new calendar year.

- 3.6 The Council has received the draft subsidy determination for 2009/10 from DCLG and in line with the formula used to set rents it is proposed that Housing fees and charges be increased by September 2008 RPI plus 0.5%. For 2009/10 this equates to increases of 5.5%. Should the final subsidy determination change then revised fees will be submitted to Members in January. Council House Rents will continue to be set as per the previous timetable.

3.7 Licensing Fees (Appendix E)

Many Licensing fees particularly those in relation to the Licensing Act 2003 are set nationally, and the majority of income derived from licensing activities results from these fees. For those licensing fees where there is local flexibility to set an appropriate amount Officers have been working to ensure that the Council's costs in administering and enforcing such licenses are adequately met from the subsequent income received, also that our fees are reasonable. It is not possible to set a standard increase across all areas. As can be seen from Appendix E the activities of the Licensing Unit are many and varied. Each activity has to be considered on the basis of the nature of the activity, location and number of existing traders and other market factors and an individual fee or charge proposed accordingly.

- 3.8 Licensing fees are delicately balanced, put these rates up too much and this will suppress the market and lead to an overall reduction in activity and therefore a reduction in income. This is particularly important at the current time due to the economic downturn, we are already seeing closure of many licensed premises and reduction in the number of street traders. This also may encourage more illegal and therefore unregulated trading; resulting in greater risks to public safety and consequently may result in more costly investigations into this activity by the Licensing Unit. However if the fee is reasonable and affordable, people will be more inclined to pay it, and this will therefore afford a greater level of protection of public safety in the Borough. In summary, income from the proposed increases in fees is expected to generate an additional £10,850 in 2009-10.
- 3.9 The Car Parks service fees and charges will be considered at a TRO Panel on 17 December.
- 3.10 The Overview and Scrutiny Board considered these fees and charges at their meeting on 27 November and a verbal update on their comments will be given at the meeting. Once agreed by the Executive the fees and charges will be referred to Full Council.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 The Executive are requested to recommend the proposed fees and charges for 2009/10 to Full Council as set out in this report.

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**TAUNTON DEANE
CEMETERIES AND
CREMATORIUM
TABLE OF FEES
AND CHARGES**

Proposed from 1st April 2009



TAUNTON DEANE **CEMETERIES & CREMATORIUM**

Part 1 - Cremation

For the Cremation:-	£ 2008/9	£ 2009/10
(i) of the body of a stillborn child or of a child whose age at the time of death did not exceed one month;	18.00	19.00
(ii) of the body of a child whose age at the time of death exceeded one month but did not exceed sixteen years;	95.00	100.00
(iii) of the body of a person whose age at the time of death exceeded sixteen years;	509.00	536.00
(iv) a surcharge will be made when the service does not take place between the hours of 9.00 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday;	57.00	60.00
(v) use of Chapel for additional service time.	132.00	139.00
(vi) Chapel Attendant pall-bearing fee.	16.00	17.00

NOTE:- The Cremation fee includes:-

Use of Chapel, waiting room etc.
 Services of organist and use of organ
 Services of chapel attendant, which includes playing CDs, tapes, etc.
 Medical referee's fee
 Disposal of cremated remains in Garden of Rest
 Certificate for burial of cremated remains
 Provision of Polytainer when required

Part 2 - Urns

Supply of Urn or Casket:-	£	£
Stratford	35.00	37.00
Avon/Stirling	40.00	43.00
Malvern	50.00	53.00
Metal Postal	45.00	48.00

Part 3 - Cremated Remains

(i) Temporary deposit of cremated remains:-		
First month	18.00	19.00
Each subsequent month	22.00	23.00
(ii) Forwarding cremated remains excluding carriage	23.00	24.00
(iii) Collection of cremated remains on a Saturday (when available)	54.00	57.00

Part 4 - Memorials

(i) Entries in Book of Memory:-		
Two line inscription	52.00	55.00
Five line inscription	72.00	75.00
Eight line inscription	99.00	104.00
Flower) with five or eight	46.00	50.00
Badge or Coat of Arms) line inscription only	58.00	70.00
(ii) Memorial Cards:-		
Two line inscription	25.00	27.00
Five line inscription	32.00	34.00
Eight line inscription	35.00	37.00
Flower) with five or eight	50.00	50.00
Badge or Coat of Arms) line inscription only	68.00	70.00
(iii) Miniature Books:-		
Two line inscription	52.00	55.00
Five line inscription	65.00	68.00
Eight line inscription	68.00	72.00
Flower	49.00	50.00
Badge or Coat of Arms	68.00	70.00

Subsequent inscriptions	17.00	18.00
Per line	42.00	50.00
Flower	56.00	70.00
Badge or Coat of Arms		
(iv) Cornish Granite tablet for a ten year period		
Standard memorial tablet	310.00	326.00
Memorial tablet with vase	360.00	378.00
Provision of flower container in existing tablet	50.00	52.00
Cost of renewal 50% of current fee	155.00	163.00
(v) Memorial plaque for a five year period	220.00	232.00
Cost of renewal 50% of current fee	110.00	116.00
(vi) Baby memorial plaques for a ten year period	70.00	72.00

Part 5 - Other Fees and Charges

(i) Certified extract from Register of Cremations	17.00	18.00
(ii) Floral Arrangements:- Small arrangement	33.00	35.00
Large arrangement	38.00	40.00

NOTE:- The charges in Part 4 and 5 (ii) include VAT

CEMETERIES

TABLE OF FEES AND CHARGES

Table of fees and other charges fixed by the Taunton Deane Borough Council for and in connection with burials in the Taunton Deane St. Mary's, St. James and Wellington Cemeteries.

The fees indicated for the various parts set out below apply where the persons to be interred or in respect of who the right is granted is, or immediately before this death, was an inhabitant of Taunton Deane District, or in the case of a stillborn child where one of the parents is or at the time of the interment was such an inhabitant or parishioner. In all other cases the fees, payments and sums will be doubled with the exception that those set out in Parts 3 and 4 will not be so doubled.

Interment fees out of normal hours will be doubled.

Part 1 - Interments

The fees indicated for the various heads of this part include the digging of the grave but do not include the walling of a vault or walled grave.

	£ 2008/9	£ 2009/ 10
1. For the interment in a grave in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has not been granted:-		
(i) of the body of a stillborn child or a child whose age at the time of death did not exceed one year;	106.00	110.00
(ii) of the body of a child or person whose age at the time of death exceeded one year.	276.00	290.00
2. For any interment in a grave in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has been granted:-		
(i) of the body of a stillborn child or a child whose age at the time of death did not exceed one year:-		
at SINGLE depth	120.00	126.00
at DOUBLE depth	144.00	152.00
at TREBLE depth	160.00	177.00

(ii)	of the body of a child or person whose age at the time of death exceeded one year but did not exceed ten:-	£	£
	at SINGLE depth	233.00	245.00
	at DOUBLE depth	274.00	288.00
	at TREBLE depth	297.00	312.00
(iii)	for the body of a person whose age exceeds ten years:-		
	at SINGLE depth	350.00	368.00
	at DOUBLE depth	412.00	433.00
	at TREBLE depth	464.00	488.00
3.	For the interment of cremated remains:-		
(i)	in Garden of Remembrance (where cremation has not taken place at Taunton Deane Crematorium)	47.00	49.00
(ii)	in any grave in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has been granted	87.00	92.00
(iii)	Saturday interment (when available)	83.00	88.00
(iv)	To witness interment in Garden of Rest when cremation has taken place at Taunton.	18.00	20.00

Part 2 - Exclusive Rights of Burial in Earthen Graves

1. Taunton Deane Cemetery:-

For the exclusive right of burial for a period of 75 years in an earthen grave 2.3 m by 1.2 m

(i)	in Division L	421.00	442.00
(ii)	in Division A	464.00	487.00
(iii)	in Division B	443.00	465.00
(iv)	Cremated remains grave 78 cm by 76 cm	297.00	312.00

2. St. Mary's and St. James Cemeteries:-

For the exclusive right of burial for a period of 75 years in an earthen grave 2.6 m by 1.2 m

443.00	465.00
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	£	£
3. Wellington Cemetery:-		
For the exclusive right of burial for a period of 75 years in an earthen grave		
(i) 2.3 m by 1.2 m	443.00	465.00
(ii) 1.2 m by 0.6 m	297.00	312.00

The fees indicated in Part 2 include the Deed of Grant and all expenses thereof.

Part 3 - Memorials and Inscriptions

For the right to erect or place on a grave or vault in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has been granted.

1. In any "Traditional Section":-		
(i) a flat stone, kerbstone or any other form of memorial;	158.00	166.00
(ii) a headstone or cross with base, bases or tablet;	141.00	148.00
(iii) an inscribed stone vase.	54.00	57.00
2. In any "Lawn Section":-		
(i) a headstone;	141.00	148.00
(ii) an inscribed vase.	54.00	57.00
3. Cremated remains flat tablet	141.00	148.00
4. Each removal of memorial for additional inscriptions.	54.00	57.00

Part 4 - Other Fees and Charges

1. Certified extract from the Register of Burials.	18.00	19.00
2. Burial service in Crematorium Chapel (fee includes the use of Chapel, organ and the organist's fee);	132.00	138.00
3. Register search.	18.00	19.00

Waste Services – Proposed Fees & Charges 2009/10

Waste Collection Authorities (WCA) are empowered by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and by regulations to charge for the collection of certain types of household wastes. These include bulky items and household garden wastes. The authorities are also empowered to charge for the provision of waste containers.

The proposed charges for the 2009/10 financial year are shown in the table below.

Bulky items and garden waste can be taken to the HWRCs free of charge.

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
	£	£	£	£
Garden Waste Service				
Garden Waste Bin	15.00	20.00	25.00	35.00
Garden Waste sack (£ per bundle of 10)	5.00	7.50	10.00	15.00
Bulky Waste Service				
First Item	10.00	10.00	10.00	15.00
Subsequent Items	2.50	5.00	5.00	7.50
Max Number of items per collection	5	5	5	5
Refuse Collection Service				
Bin delivery/exchange charge	15.00	15.00	15.00	20.00

Local Land Charges Searches and Enquiries

One parcel of land -	£85.00
Several Parcels of Land	
First parcel of land	£85.00
Each additional parcel of land	£12.00
Optional Enquiries.	
Each printed Enquiry	£8.00
Solicitors Own Enquiry.	£12.00
Statutory Search Fee on Form LLC1	£30.00
Highway Authority Charge	£25.55
Personal Search Fee	£11.00

This makes the charge for a basic full search £140.55.

Housing Fees and Charges 2009/10

Service Charges

	<u>2008/09</u>	<u>2009/10</u>
Communal Area Service Charge	£0.47	£0.50
Grounds Maintenance	£0.60	£0.63
<u>Supporting People Service Charges (Draft):</u>		
Specialised (Extra Care) Sheltered Housing	£34.51	£36.41
Sheltered Housing	£9.78	£10.32
Hardwired Sheltered Housing	£3.48	£3.67

Garage Rents

Council Tenants	£4.71 per week
Private Tenants and Owner Occupiers	£5.36 per week (+ VAT at the standard rate)

Hire Charges for Sheltered Scheme Meeting Halls

The following charges are currently in place for 2008/09:

First Hour	£8.50
Each half hour thereafter	£3.40
6 hours plus	£43.30 maximum
For residents in a scheme and community organisations the total charge is £11.20	

The proposed increase of 5.5% and rounded to the nearest 10p for ease of administration would produce the following charges:

First Hour	£9.00
Each half hour thereafter	£3.60
6 hours plus	£45.70 maximum
For residents in a scheme and community organisations the total charge is £11.80.	

Hire Charges for Sheltered Scheme Guest Rooms

It is proposed this year that the increase should reflect the increase applied to service charges. Officers are also proposing to round the charges to the nearest 50p for ease of administration. As agreed previously, some flexibility will still be provided for those relatives or friends who are staying due to compassionate reasons. The table below shows both the present charges and those proposed for 2009/10:

<u>No. of Nights per Person</u>	<u>2008/09 Charge</u>	<u>2009/10 Charge</u>
1	£9.50	£10.00
2	£15.00	£16.00
3	£21.00	£22.00
4	£26.50	£28.00
5	£32.50	£34.50
6	£38.00	£40.00
7	£44.00	£46.50

Hostels

Members will recall that last year a 4.4% increase was applied. For 2009/10 it is recommended that a 5.5% increase be applied and for information the existing and new rent levels will be:

	2008/09 Rent (per day)	2009/10 Rent (per day)
40 Humphreys Road	7.06	7.45
1 Gay Street	7.06	7.45
Outer Circle		
113 and 113a (studios)	6.01	6.34
115 and 115a (3 bedroom)	7.82	8.25
Snedden Grove		
Unit 1 (2 bedroom)	7.06	7.45
Unit 2 (2 bedroom)	6.46	6.82
Unit 3 (2 bedroom)	6.46	6.82
Unit 4 (3 bedroom)	8.46	8.93
Unit 5 (3 bedroom)	8.46	8.93
Unit 6 (2 bedroom)	7.06	7.45
Winckworth Way		
Unit 1 (2 bedroom)	6.46	6.82
Unit 2 (2 bedroom)	6.46	6.82
Unit 3 (3 bedroom)	8.46	8.93
Wheatley Crescent (4 studios)	6.01	6.34

Deane Helpline Trading Account

It is proposed that we increase the charges by 5.5% across the board, which is in line with the increases applied to service charges under the direction of the Department of Communities and Local Government.

The proposed charges for 2009/10 are shown below:

	2008/09 Current (£)	2009/10 Proposed (£)	Increase (£)
Public Sector/Private Sector Subscribers	3.48	3.67	0.19

FEES & CHARGES 2009/10 - LICENSING UNIT			APPENDIX E
SERVICE	Fees for 2008 - 2009	Proposed fees for 2009 - 2010	Comments
Licensing Act 2003	All fees fixed by statute	No change statutory fee	
Gambling Act 2005	Statutory Fee first year of operation of this Act	No change statutory fee	
Gaming Machines	Fixed By Statute	No change statutory fee	
Lotteries	Fixed By Statute	No change statutory fee	
Sex Establishment-Grant	£12,000.00	£12,000.00	
Sex Establishment - renewal	£6,500.00	£6,500.00	
Sex Establishment Licence Variation	£95 and £600 if determined by Licensing Committee	£95 and £600 if determined by Licensing Committee	
Sex Establishment Licence Transfer	£60.00	£60.00	
			Having carried out a desktop review of skin piercing we cannot justify the amount charged as this is not expended on enforcement. Skin piercing attracts little enforcement and therefore to carry on with an annual fee is disproportionate. Therefore it is proposed only to charge new application fees and not an annual fee in line with all other neighbouring councils. The fee increase reflects the projected enforcement activity for new applicants. Overall this change will reduce income by £4400.
Skin Piercing Registration-New Premises Registration	£55.00	£82.00	
Skin Piercing Registration-New Individual Registration	£55.00	£55.00	
Admin - uncleared cheques	£35.00	£35.00	
Admin charge - request for info (non FOI and non Public Regulations)	£35.00	£35.00	
Duplicate Licence	£15.00	£25.00	
Street Trading -Market House,High St,Castle Bow,North St (non food)	£1980.00	£2500.00	
Street Trading -Market House,High St,Castle Bow,North St (food)	£2400.00	£3,000.00	
Street Trading - Paul St, Billet St	£1,080.00	£1,500.00	
Street Trading - Laybys	£1680-£2640	£1920 to £2880	
Mobile Traders	£300.00	£350.00	
Permanent Site private land	£300.00	£350.00	
Daily rate	£25-£55	£30.00 per day or £55 per week	
Promotional Events	£150.00	£150.00	
Pavement Cafes Less than 10m2 (Grant/Renewal)	£410/£220	£540/£340	
Pavement Cafes less than 20m2 (Grant/Renewal)	£460/£270	£590/£390	
Pavement Cafes less than 30m2 (Grant/Renewal)	£595/£405	£725/£525	
Pavement Cafes less than 40m2 (Grant/Renewal)	£650/£460	£780/£580	
Pavement Cafes in excess of 40m2 (Grant/Renewal)	£870/£680	£1000/£800	
Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence	£175.00	£185.00	
Private Hire Vehicle Licence	£175.00	£185.00	
Change of number plate	£30.00	£40.00	
Meter Test	£18.00	£21.00	
Replacement Plate	£25.00	£25.00	
Internal Identification Sticker	£3.50	£3.50	
Private Hire Operator Licence	£100.00	£100.00	
New Drivers Licence	£120.00	£130.00	
Additional Knowledge Test	£20.00	£20.00	
Driver renewal 1 year	£100.00	£110.00	
Driver renewal 3 year	£270.00	£300.00	
Replacement badge	£15.00	£20.00	
Advertising on Vehicles	£50.00	£70.00	
Motor Salvage Operator Registration	£70.00	£80.00	
Certified copy of Motor Salvage Operator Register	£35.00	£40.00	
Pet Shop Licence	£120.00	£130.00	
Animal Boarding Licence	£120.00 *	£130.00	
Home Boarding Licence	£30.00 *	£130.00	This has been increased to the same as an animal boarding licence as it is the same process and the same level of enforcement is required and adoption of model conditions recently by lic cmte allows us to now enforce this.

SERVICE	Fees for 2008 - 2009	Proposed fees for 2009 - 2010	Comments
Dog Breeding	£120.00 *	£130,00	
Dangerous Wild Animals	£150.00 *	£150,00	
Riding Establishments	£150.00 *	£150,00	
Zoos	£500.00 *	There can be no charge for this licence just actual cost recovery	
	*plus vets fees where appropriate.		