

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Executive – 1 December 2010

Fees and Charges 2011/2012

Report of the Strategic Finance Officer

(This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillors Ken Hayward, Mrs Jean Court-Stenning and Mark Edwards)

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report sets out the proposed fees and charges for 2011/2012.

2. Background

- 2.1 Taunton Deane Borough Council charges the public for some services that they use. Some of these charges are set by central government whilst others are set by us.

The services that TDBC charge for are:-

- Crematoria
- Cemetery
- Waste Services
- Land Charges
- Housing
- Licensing
- Planning
- Car Parking
- Environmental Health

3. Proposed Increases for 2011/2012

- 3.1 Appended to this report are the detailed proposed charges for each service as outlined above.

3.2 Cemeteries and Crematorium (Appendix A)

It is proposed that the main cremation fee be increased by £20 to £570 and make minor increases for other charges within the service. This will generate additional income of an estimated £44,000.

Members will recall that the fees and charges were amended in August 2010 to provide a more competitive structure. The cremation fees (i) and (ii) for children has been removed, Part 2 Urns: Caskets have been reduced in price due to a new supply having been received. All other charges have been kept to a minimum increase. Interment fees for children under the age of sixteen have been removed. This is being proposed under compassionate grounds and fortunately there are few interments of children in this age group. Interment fees and Exclusive Rights fees are currently too low and require increasing significantly over the next four years. Therefore these fees have been increased accordingly.

The table below details charges made by neighbouring cremation authorities, as yet their proposed fees for 2011/2012 are not yet known.

	Current Cremation Fee 2010/2011	Proposed Cremation Fee 2011/2012	Purchase of Lawn Type Grave 2010/2011	Burial Fee 2010/1011
Barnstaple	£530 including organist	Not known	No graves – Only loose interments	Interment fee for CR £72
Bristol (Canford)	£550 including organist	Not known	£740	£645 Double depth
Bristol (South)	£550 including organist	Not known	£740	£645 Double depth
Yeovil	£480 Organist not included	Not known	£340 (double fees if non-resident)	£363 double depth (double fees if non-resident)
Bath	£550 including organist	Will change in January (not known yet)	30 years-£750 50 years-£1,250 (double fees if non-resident)	£550 (fee is for any depth - double fees if non-resident)
Taunton Deane	£550	£570	£454	£378

3.3 Waste Services (Appendix B)

The garden waste collection service is not self-financing and relies on subsidy by those council tax payers not currently accessing the service. It is proposed to not increase fees for Garden Bins and increase a bundle of 10 Garden Waste Sacks from £20 to £25. This increase is not budgeted to generate additional income due to a fall in usage.

3.4 Land Charges (Appendix C)

As last year, given the current economic climate, it is proposed to keep land charges fees the same as in 2009/2010. 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

3.5 Housing and Deane Helpline (Appendix D)

It is proposed to increase all charges by 4.6%. This is estimated to raise an additional figure of £59,000 for the HRA. These increases were accepted by the Tenants Services Management Board at their meeting on 15 November 2010. (Council housing rents will be set in the New Year once the subsidy determination has been issued by DCLG)

3.6 Licensing Fees (Appendix E)

The fees and charges for licensing functions have been increased slightly and are shown in Appendix E. It is estimated that this will generate additional income of £3,850

Many fees and charges for Licensing functions are set by statute, so increases under local arrangements are not possible. Those that are regulated in this way are annotated as such in the Appendix E.

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.

The activities of the Licensing unit are, as can be seen from the attached appendix many and varied and it is not possible to set a standard increase across all areas. 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.

Licensing fees are delicately balanced, put these rates up too much and this may suppress the market and lead to an overall reduction in activity resulting in a reduction in income. A large increase in fees may also 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 Team. If the fee however is reasonable and affordable, people will be more inclined to pay it, and this will afford a greater level of protection of public safety in the Borough.

In recommending increases, we have been mindful of continuing trading difficulties and the matters outlined above and have therefore discounted applying increases "across the board" instead choosing to examine each of the many Licensing functions individually. And where an increase is proposed the proposed increase is based on the Council's reasonable costs in undertaking its responsibilities and duties.

In summary, income from the proposed increases in fees is anticipated to generate an additional £3,850 in 2011/2012 if the recommendations were to be accepted in full.

3.7 Planning (Appendix F)

The planning service offers pre-application advice and charges of this service. It is proposed to increase these charges as detailed in Appendix F. This will generate additional income of an estimated £10,000.

The Secretary of State has launched a consultation paper on proposed changes to the planning application fee regime which will decentralise responsibility for setting fees to local planning authorities. Comments on the consultation are required by 7 January 2011. Finance are currently calculating the potential effect on Taunton Deane Borough Council.

3.8 Car Parking Charges

Fees and charges for Car Parks will be considered at the Traffic Regulation Order Panel in January 2011.

3.9 Environmental Health

The fees and charges that are made by Environmental Health are Pollution Prevention Control inspection fees which are set by statute, and for Pest Control services. Pest control was subject to a significant review in January 2010 as part of the Core Council Review.

From 1 April 2010 staffing was reduced from two pest controllers to one pest controller, and the fees for rodent control increased from £15 to £25. At present our fees for insect control are around the mid point for the Taunton area. There is a balance to be struck between raising income and the wider public health implications of providing a sufficient level of rodent control. The Core Council Review has made significant change to the Pest Control Service, therefore it is prudent to allow one full year to fully assess any emerging trends before making any recommendations on fees

3.10 Comments from the Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Waste Services charges were discussed and the following observations were made.

- The charge for bulky waste should not be increased;
- The use of bins rather than sacks should be encouraged;
- The increased charge for waste sacks is 20%;
- Usage analysis for waste was requested.

The Corporate Scrutiny Committee was supportive of the removal of Crematorium Fees for children.

No further comments were made by Corporate Scrutiny.

4. Finance Comments

4.1 This is a finance report and there are no further comments.

5. Legal Comments

5.1 There are no legal implications of this report.

6. Links to Corporate Aims

6.1 Even though some of the services increasing their charges are linked to the corporate aims there are no specific links within this report.

7. Environmental and Community Safety Implications

7.1 There are no environmental and community safety implications of this report.

8. Equalities Impact

8.1 Equality issues have been considered on fees and charges changes for 2011/2012.

9. Risk Management

9.1 Not appropriate to this report.

10. Partnership Implications

10.1 There are no partnership implications of this report.

11. Recommendations

11.1 The Executive is requested to recommend the proposed fees and charges for 2011/2012 to Full Council as set out in this report.

Contact:

Cemeteries and Crematorium
Paul Rayson
01823 284811
p.rayson@tauntondeane.gov.uk

Waste Services
Shirlene Adam
01823 356310
s.adam@tauntondeane.gov.uk

Land Charges
Tonya Meers
01823 356391
t.meers@tauntondeane.gov.uk

Housing
Stephen Boland
01823 356332
s.boland@tauntondeane.gov.uk

Licensing
Ian Carter
01823 356343
i.carter@tauntondeane.gov.uk

Planning
Tim Burton
01823 358403
t.burton@tauntondeane.gov.uk

Maggie Hammond
01823 358698
m.hammond@tauntondeane.gov.uk

Appendix A

Taunton Deane Cemeteries and Cematorium

Table of Fees and Charges

Effective from 1 April 2011

Table of fees and other charges, the payment of which may be demanded under Section 9 of the Cremation Act 1902, by the Taunton Deane Borough Council for the cremation of human remains.

Part 1 – Cremation

For the Cremation:-	2010/2011	2011/2012
(i) of the body of a stillborn child or of a child whose age at the time of death did not exceed one month;	£20.00	No Fee
(ii) of the body of a child whose age at the time of death exceeded one month but did not exceed sixteen years;	£103.00	No Fee
(iii) of the body of a person whose age at the time of death exceeded sixteen years	£550.00	£570.00
(iv) Cremation delivery fee	£450.00	£470.00
(v) use of Chapel for additional service time	£100.00	£105.00
(vi) Saturday cremation fee	£800.00	£820.00
(vii) Chapel Attendant pall-bearing fee	£18.00	£18.00

NOTE:- The cremation fee includes:-

- Use of Chapel, waiting room etc.
- Services of chapel attendant
- 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:-	2010/2011	2011/2012
Stratford	£38.00	No longer supplied
Avon/Stirling	£44.00	No longer supplied
Malvern	£54.00	No longer supplied
Newton	-	£20.00
Newham	-	£20.00
Lesbury	-	£20.00
Metal Postal	£49.00	£50.00

Part 3 – Cremated Remains

(i) Temporary deposit of cremated remains:-	2010/2011	2011/2012
First month	£20.00	£21.00
Each subsequent month	£24.00	£25.00
(ii) Forwarding cremated remains excluding carriage	£25.00	£26.00
(iii) Collection of cremated remains on a Saturday (when available)	£58.00	£58.00

Part 4 – Memorials

(i) Entries in Book of Memory:-		
Two line inscription	£56.00	£58.00
Five line inscription	£77.00	£78.00
Eight line inscription	£107.00	£110.00
Flower) with five or eight)	£51.00	£53.00
Badge or Coat of Arms) line inscription only	£72.00	£74.00
(ii) Memorial Cards:-		
Two line inscription	£28.00	£30.00
Five line inscription	£35.00	£37.00
Eight line inscription	£38.00	£40.00

Flower) with five or eight)	£51.00	£53.00
Badge or Coat of Arms) line inscription only	£72.00	£74.00

(iii) Miniature Books:-

Two line inscription	£56.00	£58.00
Five line inscription	£70.00	£72.00
Eight line inscription	£74.00	£76.00
Flower	£51.00	£53.00
Badge or Coat of Arms	£72.00	£74.00

Subsequent inscriptions	2010/2011	2011/2012
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Per line	£19.00	£21.00
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Flower	£51.00	£53.00
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Badge or Coat of Arms	£72.00	£74.00
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(iv) Cornish Granite tablet for a ten year period

Standard memorial tablet	£335.00	£340.00
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Memorial tablet with vase	£388.00	£400.00
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Provision of flower container in existing tablet	£53.00	£55.00
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Cost of renewal 50% of current fee	£167.00	£200.00
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(v) Memorial plaque for a five year period	£238.00	£246.00
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Cost of renewal 50% of current fee	£119.00	£123.00
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(vi) Baby memorial plaques for a ten year period	£74.00	£75.00
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Part 5 – Other Fees and Charges

(i) Certified extract from Register of Cremations	£19.00	£20.00
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NOTE:- The charges in Part 4 and 5 (ii) include VAT

Cemeteries

Table of Fees and Charges

Effective from 1 April 2011

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.

Part 1 – Interments

	2010/11	2011/12
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.	£	
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.	113.00	No Fee
(ii) of the body of a child or person whose age at the time of death exceeded one year	298.00	No Fee
(iii) of the body of a person whose age exceeds ten years	298.00	350.00
2. For an 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	129.00	No Fee
at DOUBLE depth	156.00	No Fee
at TREBLE depth	182.00	No Fee
(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	251.00	No Fee
	at DOUBLE depth	296.00	No Fee
	at TREBLE depth	320.00	No Fee
(iii)	for the body of a person whose age exceeds ten years;	2010/11	2011/12
	at SINGLE depth	378.00	400.00
	at DOUBLE depth	444.00	500.00
	at TREBLE depth	501.00	560.00
3.	Saturday burial (when available)	180.00	200.00
4.	For the interment of cremated remains:		
(i)	in the Garden of Remembrance (where cremation has not taken place at Taunton Deane Crematorium)	50.00	55.00
(ii)	in any grave in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has been granted	94.00	100.00
(iii)	Saturday interment (when available)	90.00	100.00
(iv)	To witness interment in Garden of Rest when cremation has taken place at Taunton.	20.00	22.00

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 2.3m by 1.2m

(i)	in Division L	450.00	500.00
(ii)	in Division A	550.00	N/A
(iii)	in Division B	477.00	510.00
(iv)	cremated remains grave 78cm by 76cm	320.00	350.00

2. St Mary's and St James Cemeteries;

For the exclusive rights of burial for a period of 75 years in an earthen grave 2.6m by 1.2m	477.00	510.00
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3. Wellington Cemetery;

For the exclusive right of burial for a period of 75 years in an earthen grave;	2010/11	2011/12
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(i) 2.3m by 1.2m	477.00	510.00
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(ii) 1.2m by 0.6m	320.00	350.00
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The fees indicated in Part 2 include Dee 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	170.00	175.00
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(ii) a headstone or cross with base, bases or tablet	152.00	155.00
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(iii) an inscribed stone vase	58.00	60.00
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2. In any Lawn Section"

(i) a headstone	152.00	155.00
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(ii) an inscribed vase	58.00	60.00
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3. Cremated remains flat tablet	152.00	155.00
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4. Each removal of memorial for additional inscriptions	58.00	60.00
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Part 4 – Other fees and Charges

1. Certified extract from the Register of Burials	20.00	20.00
2. Burial service in Cremetorium Chapel (fee includes the use of the Chapel, organ and the organists fee)	100.00	105.00
3. Register Search	20.00	20.00

Appendix B

Waste Services

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. Authorities are also empowered to charge for the provision of waste containers.

The proposed charges for 2011/2012 are shown in the table below.

	2010/11 £	2011/12 £
Garden Waste Service		
Garden Waste Bin	42.50	42.50
Garden Waste Sack (£ per bundle of 10)	20.00	25.00
Bulky Waste Service		
First Item *	35.00	36.50
Subsequent Items (maximum number of five items per collection)	7.50	8.00
Refuse Collection Service		
Bin delivery/exchange charge	25.00	25.00

Appendix C

Local Land Charges Searches and Enquiries

	2010/11 £	2011/12 £
One parcel of land	85.00	85.00
Several parcels of land		
- first parcel of land	85.00	85.00
- each additional parcel of land	12.00	12.00
Optional enquiries		
Each printed enquiry	8.00	8.00
Solicitors own enquiry	12.00	12.00
Statutory search fee on Form LLC1	30.00	30.00
Highway Authority charge	25.55	25.55
Personal search fee	11.00	11.00

Appendix D

Housing

	2010/11	2011/12
Service Charges		
Communal areas	£0.51	£0.53
Grounds maintenance	£0.65	£0.68

Supporting People

Specialised (Extra Care) Sheltered Housing	£37.32	£39.00
Sheltered Housing	£10.58	£11.06
Hardwired Sheltered Housing	£3.76	£3.93

Garage Rents

Council tenants	£4.83	£5.05
Private tenants and Owner Occupiers (exc. VAT)	£5.49	£5.74

Hire Charges for Sheltered Scheme Meeting Halls

First hour	£9.00	£9.67
Each half hour thereafter	£3.70	£3.87
6 hours plus	£46.85	£49.00
Total charge for residents in a scheme and community organisations	£12.10	£12.65

Hire Charges for Sheltered Scheme Guest Rooms

No. of nights per person		
1	£10.25	£10.70
2	£16.40	£17.15
3	£22.55	£23.60
4	£28.70	£30.00
5	£35.35	£37.00
6	£41.00	£42.90
7	£47.65	£49.80

Service Gross

Hostels (rent per day)			Charge	per day
40 Humphreys Road	£7.45	£7.79	£3.11	£10.90
1 Gay Street	£7.45	£7.79	£3.11	£10.90
Outer Circle				
113 and 113a (studios)	£6.34	£6.63	£3.11	£9.74
115 and 115a (3 bedroom)	£8.25	£8.63	£3.11	£11.74
Sneddon Grove				
Unit 1 (2 bedroom)	£7.45	£7.79	£3.11	£10.90
Unit 2 (2 bedroom)	£6.82	£7.13	£3.11	£10.24
Unit 3 (2 bedroom)	£6.82	£7.13	£3.11	£10.24
Unit 4 (3 bedroom)	£8.93	£9.34	£3.82	£13.16
Unit 5 (3 bedroom)	£8.93	£9.34	£3.82	£13.16
Unit 6 (2 bedroom)	£7.45	£7.79	£3.11	£10.90
Winckworth Way				
Unit 1 (2 bedroom)	£6.82	£7.13	£3.11	£10.24
Unit2 (2 bedroom)	£6.82	£7.13	£3.11	£10.24
Unit 3 (3 bedroom)	£8.93	£9.34	£3.82	£13.16
Wheatley Crescent (4 studios)	£6.34	£6.63	£3.11	£9.74

Deane Helpline

Public/Private subscribers (pre - 1/11/10)	£3.76	£3.93
Public subscriber (post - 1/11/10)	£3.76	£3.93
Private subscribers (post - 1/11/10)	£4.20	£4.20

Appendix E

Item	Current Charges	Proposed Charges (£)
Administration Charges ~ Uncleared Cheques	£35.00	£35.00
Administration Charges ~ Other	£35.00	£35.00
Sex Establishment Licence (Grant)	£5,000.00	£5,150.00
Sex Establishment Licence (Renewal)	£1,550.00	£1,555.00
Sex Establishment Licence (Variation)	£100.00	£110.00
(add £600 if to be determined by Licensing Committee)		
Sex Establishment Licence (Transfer)	£100.00	£110.00
(add £600 if to be determined by Licensing Committee)		
Skin Piercing (Premises)	£100.00	£105.00
Skin Piercing (Individual)	£75.00	£80.00
Animal Welfare (Pet Shop)	£130.00	£135.00
(plus vet fee where appropriate)		
Animal Welfare (Animal Boarding)	£130.00	£135.00
(plus vet fee where appropriate)		
Animal Welfare (Home Boarding)	£130.00	£135.00
(plus vet fee where appropriate)		
Animal Welfare (Dog Breeding)	£130.00	£135.00
(plus vet fee where appropriate)		
Animal Welfare (Dangerous Wild Animals)	£150.00	£150.00
(plus vet fee where appropriate)		
Animal Welfare (Riding Establishments)	£150.00	£155.00
(plus vet fee where appropriate)		
Animal Welfare (Zoo Licence)	£500.00	£515.00
(plus vet fee where appropriate)		
Motor Salvage Operators (Registration)	£90.00	£100.00
Motor Salvage Operators (Certified Copy)	£50.00	£55.00
Street Trading (Market House, High St, Castle Bow, North St (non-food))	£2,750.00	£2,780.00
Street Trading (Market House, High St, Castle Bow, North St (food))	£3,300.00	£3,330.00
Street Trading (Paul St, Billet St)	£1,650.00	£1,680.00
Street Trading (Designated Lay-bys - Trunk Roads)	£3,168.00	£3,198.00
Street Trading (All other Designated Lay-bys)	£2,112.00	£2,142.00
Street Trading (Mobile Traders)	£385.00	£415.00
Street Trading (Permanent on Private Land)	£385.00	£415.00
Street Trading (Daily Rate - Taunton)	£44.00	£45.00
Street Trading (Daily Rate - Other Areas)	£33.00	£33.00
Street Trading (Promotional Events)	£175.00	£200.00
Pavement Cafes (New) up to 10m ²	£595.00	£625.00

Pavement Cafes (New) up to 20m ²	£650.00	£680.00
Pavement Cafes (New) up to 30m ²	£795.00	£825.00
Pavement Cafes (New) up to 40m ²	£860.00	£890.00
Pavement Cafes (New) Over 40m ²	£1,100.00	£1,130.00
Pavement Cafes (Renewal) up to 10m ²	£375.00	£390.00
Pavement Cafes (Renewal) up to 20m ²	£430.00	£445.00
Pavement Cafes (Renewal) up to 30m ²	£575.00	£590.00
Pavement Cafes (Renewal) up to 40m ²	£640.00	£655.00
Pavement Cafes (Renewal) Over 40m ²	£880.00	£895.00
Taxi/Private Hire Licence (Vehicle)	£200.00	£200.00
Taxi/Private Hire (Vehicle Owner/Transfer)	£50.00	£50.00
Taxi/Private Hire Licence (Meter Test)	£21.00	£21.00
Taxi/Private Hire Licence (Replacement Plate)	£25.00	£25.00
Taxi/Private Hire Licence (Internal ID Sticker)	£3.50	£3.50
Private Hire Operators Licence	£120.00	£140.00
Taxi/Private Hire Licence (New Drivers or renewal with CRB)	£130.00	£140.00
Taxi/Private Hire (Additional Knowledge Test)	£25.00	£30.00
Taxi/Private Hire (Driver Renewal 1 Year)	£120.00	£120.00
Taxi/Private Hire (Driver Renewal 3 Years)	£300.00	£300.00
Taxi/Private Hire (Replacement Badge)	£25.00	£25.00
Taxi/Private Hire (Advertising)	£70.00	£100.00
Licensing Act 2003	Charges set by Statute	
Gambling Act 2005	85% of Max set by statute	

Appendix F

CURRENT CHARGES

The schedule of charges incorporates fees which are dependent on the nature and scale of your proposal. The charge is per request.

Level 1 - Householder, Advertisement and Landscape advice. Tree Preservation Orders and Listed Buildings (in cases where planning permission also required):

Written Advice	£50 + vat @17.5% = £58.75
Meeting with note	£70 + vat @17.5% = £82.25

Level 2 - All other minor developments (e.g. less than 10 dwellings, 1000 sq m industrial):

Written Advice	£90 + vat @17.5% = £105.75
Meeting with note	£130 + vat @17.5% = £152.75

Level 3 - Major Developments (e.g. more than 10 dwellings, 1,000 q m industrial):

Written Advice	£160 + vat @17.5% = £180.00
Meeting with note	£200 + vat @17.5% = £235.00

There is no charge for advice on revised proposals following a refusal of planning permission or the withdrawal of an application (this exemption is restricted to one letter or meeting only).

Advice on proposals which only require Listed Building Consent do not attract a fee.

PROPOSED CHARGES FROM APRIL 2011

The schedule of charges incorporates fees which are dependent on the nature and scale of your proposal. The charge is per request.

Level 1 - Householder, Advertisement and Landscape advice. Tree Preservation Orders and Listed Buildings (in cases where planning permission also required):

Written Advice	£60 + vat @20% = £72.00
Meeting with note	£80 + vat @20% = £96.00

Level 2a - Minor developments (e.g. less than 5 dwellings, 500 sq m industrial):

Written Advice	£150 + vat @20% = £180.00
Meeting with note	£200 + vat @20% = £240.00

Level 2b – Larger scale minor developments (e.g. between 5 and 10 dwellings, 500 and 1000 sq m industrial):

Written Advice	£200 + vat @20% = £240.00
Meeting with note	£250 + vat @20% = £300.00

Level 3a - Major Developments (e.g. more than 10 dwellings, 1,000 sq m industrial):

Written Advice	£350 + vat @20% = £420.00
Meeting with note	£400 + vat @20% = £480.00

Level 3b – Large Scale Major Developments (e.g. more than 50 dwellings, 5,000 sq m industrial):

Written Advice	£500 + vat @20% = £600.00
Meeting with note	£600 + vat @20% = £720.00

For major developments (level 3a and 3b) pre-application fees are negotiable through the applicant and Council entering into a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA).

There is no charge for advice on revised proposals following a refusal of planning permission or the withdrawal of an application (this exemption is restricted to one letter or meeting only).

Advice on proposals which only require Listed Building Consent do not attract a fee.