

REPORT TO: CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING

DATE: 30th November 2021

SERVICE AREA: PLACE-SHAPING AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

REPORTING OFFICER: Service Improvement & Development Manager (Dave Clothier)

SUBJECT: **PSEG Service Improvement, Development & Support Fee Setting Report 2022/23 (including Street Naming & Numbering)**

WARDS AFFECTED: All

FORWARD PLAN REF: N/A

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the proposed fees and charges for 2022/23 within the Place-shaping & Economic Growth (PSEG) Service Improvement, Development & Support function, including fees and charges for the Street Naming and Numbering function, to be applied from 1st April 2022.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member agrees:

- 2.1 The proposed fees and charges for 2022/23 within the Place-shaping & Economic Growth (PSEG) Service Improvement, Development & Support function. These fees have been increased by approximately 2.5%.

3.0 RECOMMENDED REASONS FOR DECISIONS

- 3.1 The general approach taken in setting fees is to levy a charge for a service which reflects the actual cost to the Council.

The 2.5% target increase is in line with the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and is recommended for charges for 2022/23.

4.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTION/S CONSIDERED AND RECOMMENDED FOR REJECTION

- 4.1 Not to increase the fees and charges. This is recommended for rejection as this would be contrary to guidance in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Failure to

implement the increase could mean that the full costs of providing the service would not be achieved.

5.0 THE REPORT

- 5.1 Details of the recommended non-statutory fees and charges relating to PSEG Service Improvement and Development function, including Street Naming & Numbering are provided in Appendices 1 and 2.
- 5.2 The Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure that all streets are named and all buildings appropriately named and/or numbered within its locality. The majority of applications for naming and numbering are received from commercial organisations and developers in relation to new-build residential development, rather than from residents.
- 5.3 Fees were raised by a level of approximately 20% on 1 April 2020, with an additional fee introduced in April 2021 to help enable investment in, and improvement of, the Street Naming and Numbering function. This, together a change in how the function is structured, has led to significant improvements in service delivery. This fee increase also brought the Council's charges for this service in line with the charges already being applied by other local authorities. It is not recommended that any further new charges or significant increases are brought forward in 2022/23, but that fees should be increased by 2.5% as recommended through the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

6.0 REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS AND IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The following were considered: Financial Implications; Human Resources Implications; Legal Implications; ICT Implications; Strategic Property/Asset Management Considerations; Risk Assessment; Equality and Diversity (the Public Sector Equality Duty and impact upon people with protected characteristics). If applicable, the outcomes of any consultations, assessments, considerations and implications considered necessary during preparation of this report are detailed below.
- 6.2 Finance

Consultation with finance staff was undertaken during the preparation of this report and their comments taken into account in the proposed recommendations.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The charges for the Street Naming & Numbering function require revision in line with the 2.5% target increase in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

OFFICER CONTACT: Please contact Dave Clothier, Service Improvement & Development Manager if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at the Place-shaping and Economic Growth Section, Civic Centre, Harrogate, HG1 9RW, by telephone on 01423 500600 x 58641 or by e-mail – david.clothier@harrogate.gov.uk