

Committee Port Health and Environmental Services	Date: 03 03 2020
Subject: Proposed Charges for Street Cleansing, Waste Collection and Public Conveniences 2020-21	Public
Report of: Director of the Built Environment	For information
Report author: Jim Graham, Assistant Director Cleansing	

Summary

This report sets out the proposed 2020/21 fees and charges for a range of services provided by the City's Street Cleansing, Waste Collection and Public Conveniences operations. It is recommended that they take effect from 1 April 2020.

An increase by Retail Price Index (RPI) of 2.3% is proposed for cleansing of private land, sale of Smartbins (post mounted cigarette bins), bulky waste collection and charges for general waste collection from educational establishments.

No changes are proposed to current charges for recycling services, public conveniences, recycling for educational establishments, the removal of highway obstructions and the Clean City Awards Scheme membership fee.

It is also proposed to continue the provision of free collection of bulky waste for low income households, and free assisted collections for the infirm and the disabled, to enable them to access these services.

The charges proposed in the report, when taken together, are estimated to generate an income of £511,000.

All proposals in the report align with the City's charging policies such as raising revenue and contributing to the achievement of policy objectives. The charges proposed in this report are exclusive of VAT.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- approve that with effect from 1 April 2020:
 - charges for Street Cleansing services to external clients are increased by 2.3% in line with RPI.
 - charges for special events and other ad-hoc works provided to third parties continue to be made at full cost plus 30% to cover the City's management and administration costs.
 - the charge for the collection of bulky waste is increased to £33 from £34.
 - bulky waste collection continues to be offered free of charge on request to those who are in receipt of means tested benefits and to those who are infirm or disabled receiving assisted collections.

- the general waste charges for educational establishments are increased by 2.3% and food and recycling collection charges should be maintained at the current level.
- charges for the removal of highway obstructions to remain at the existing £60 plus VAT and for the removal of uncollected bagged waste to remain at £125 up to 10 bags and £5 per bag thereafter.
- charges for the staffed toilet facilities at Tower Hill, Paternoster, Royal Exchange and Eastcheap conveniences to remain at 50p per use.
- smart bins (post mounted cigarette bins) sold to businesses be charged at cost plus 20% to cover the City's administration costs.
- Clean City Awards Scheme membership fees are kept the same.

Main Report

Background

1. Fees and charges are reviewed yearly to ensure that they reflect the City Corporation's priorities and the charging policies such as raising revenue to allow the continued provision of services and contribute to the corporate policy objectives. They are also reviewed annually as part of the budget setting process within the agreed corporate timeline and are set within the context of value for money.

Current Position

2. The Council has general power under section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003 ("LGA 2003") to charge a person for service it provides. They are discretionary services where the Council is authorised, not required, to provide and the service receiver has agreed to its provision.
3. There is a need for continuous price review of those service offerings and income generation to avoid any service reductions. The proposed fees and charges are competitive within the market environment and the services offered are not inappropriately subsidised. However, the income from discretionary services must not exceed the cost of provision.
4. Officers have set charges to recoup the total cost of providing a service including overheads, whilst also enabling them to manage demands and to offer subsidised services to those who are vulnerable to encourage use and to enhance service access. The policy, therefore, ensures a fair and reasonable price for all services reflecting the ability of the community and organisers to pay.

Proposals

5. Set out below are the details of the review and the proposed fees and charges for the following services in 2020/21 with effect from 1 April 2020.

Cleansing for Private Landowners

6. The City provides, via its term contractor, cleansing services to private landowners whose land is open to public use. This is a chargeable service and is renewed annually in April. It is proposed to increase charges by 2.3% in line with RPI for those landowners continuing to use the service. Details are shown in Appendix 1. The total anticipated income from this service is £10,000 in 2020/21.

Special Events Cleansing

7. A number of special events are held in the City each year by various organisations. The City arranges for the clean up after each event via its term contractor and recharges the event organisers the full cost plus 30% to cover the City's management and administration costs, and it is proposed to continue this arrangement. The estimated annual income from this service is £71,000.

Removal of Obstructions, Bagged Waste and Fly-Tips

8. Bicycles, A-boards and other items are routinely removed from the highway if they pose an obstruction. Currently there is a charge of £60 plus VAT for this service and it is proposed that these charges will remain the same. The City of London Corporation has powers granted under Section 17 of the Local Authorities and Transport for London Act 2003, which empower the removal of the offending 'things' from the highway.
9. Uncollected commercial waste left on the highway for collection by third parties is also collected and disposed of for a charge of £125 plus VAT per occasion for up to 10 bags and £5 per bag thereafter. No increase is proposed to these charges.
10. Large quantities of waste deposited on the highway will continue to be treated as 'fly-tip' which carries a fine of up to £50,000 (unlimited if the case goes to the Crown Court) and offenders could also face a prison sentence of up to five years.

Provision of Pocket Ashtrays and Smartbins

11. The City's ongoing Smoking Related Litter campaign continues to be successful and as a result, we have had requests from businesses in the City for the supply of pocket ashtrays for use at their premises. The charge for 100 Pocket Ashtrays currently is £80 and no increase is proposed.
12. The City also provides twin and solo Smartbins to businesses, if requested, at cost plus a 20% administration fee, and no change is proposed.

Bulky Waste Collection

13. The standard charge for bulky waste collection is currently £33. This is a doorstep collection service and the charge covers, for example, the collection of a three-piece suite or ten bags of waste. It is proposed to increase the standard charge in line with 2.3% RPI, rounded to £34.

14. The service is free to those who are in receipt of means tested benefits and an assisted collection is offered free of charge to those who are disabled or infirm; it is proposed to maintain this policy.

Clean City Awards Scheme

15. The Clean City Awards Scheme currently has 109 businesses signed up for the scheme and paying a fee for membership. No increase is proposed to the fee and, based on the current membership level, the fee income is anticipated to be £36,000 next year.

Educational Establishments and Charities

16. Waste collection and disposal from 10 schools and colleges in the City, are chargeable under the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 (CWR 2012). The exception to this in the City is Sir John Cass School. As it is wholly state funded, only the collection cost is chargeable.

17. In order to promote more recycling, it is proposed to maintain food waste and recycling waste charges at their current level whilst increasing the general waste charges by 2.3 % in line with RPI, as detailed in Appendix 2.

18. The anticipated income from these schools, as detailed in Appendix 3, is £54,000 based on the existing number of customers, containers / bags in use and frequency of collection. This revenue, therefore, can vary if there are any future changes to these factors.

19. It is proposed to increase the general waste charges by 2.3% in line with RPI, as detailed in Appendix 4, whilst no increase is proposed for the food waste and recycling waste charges to encourage more recycling.

20. Waste from charities is collected as commercial waste under the Controlled Waste CWR 2012, whilst waste from places of religious worship is classified as household waste and the City makes no charges for either collection or disposal.

Public Conveniences

21. The current charge for staffed barrier toilet facilities at Tower Hill, Paternoster, Royal Exchange and Eastcheap is 50p per use. No increase is proposed to these charges. The budgeted income from these toilets is £335,000 in 2020/21 and it is expected to achieve an income close to this target based on the current level of usage.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

22. Effective street cleansing services are proven to be an important factor in reducing residents' fear of crime and would maintain both private and public areas to the City's high cleansing standards.

23. Providing efficient and high-quality local services to achieve sustainable outcomes within the Square Mile is part of the City's Corporate Plan 2018/23 and reducing expenditure, enhancing income and improving efficiency.

24. Where charges proposed in this report require variations to contracts, they must be made via Change Control Requests signed by both parties.

25. The Comptroller and City Solicitor has been consulted and his comments are incorporated in the body of this report.

Implications

26. The 2020/21 budgeted income from the services detailed in this report is £520,000, and the proposed charges, summarised below, should produce an estimated income of £511,000.

Description	Forecast Income £'000
Private Land Cleansing	10
City Events – Street Cleansing	71
Clean City Awards Scheme Membership	36
Collections from Educational Institutions	54
Bulky Waste Collections	5
Public Conveniences	335
Total	511

Conclusion

27. The charges for 2020/21 set out in this report, are aimed at maintaining the standard of the City's street scene, encouraging sustainable waste management and safeguarding the income from services operating in a competitive environment.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Cleansing Service Charges to Private Landowners
- Appendix 2 – Charges for Schools
- Appendix 3 – Estimated School Income

Background Papers

Jim Graham

Assistant Director of Cleansing Operations and Street Environment

T: 020 7332 4972

E: jim.graham@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Appendix 1 - Cleansing Service Charges to Private Landowners

Customer	Current Charge 2019/20 £	Proposed Charge 2020/21 £
Telereal Trillium Ltd, Bastion House Slip Road	2,693	2,755
Drapers Hall, Footpaths adjacent to Drapers Hall, Throgmorton Avenue	1,905	1,949
Corren Properties, Dyers Building	405	414
Carpenters Hall, Footpaths adjacent to Carpenters Hall, Throgmorton Ave (twice daily sweeping)	4,585	4,690
Total	9,588	9,808

Note: VAT (not shown) is applicable to these charges.

Appendix 2 – Charges for Schools

Container Type	Current Charge 2019/20 £	Proposed Charge 2020/21 £	Percentage Increase
General Waste Bag – roll of 50	99.38	101.67	2.3%
General Waste – 1100L bin per lift	15.53	15.89	2.3%
General Waste – 240L bin per lift	4.97	5.08	2.3%
Recycling Bag – roll of 50	42.50	42.50	0%
Recycling Waste – 240L bins per lift	1.50	1.50	0%
Recycling Waste – 660L bins per lift	3.00	3.00	0%
Recycling Waste – 1100L bins per lift	4.00	4.00	0%
Food Bin – 140L per lift	11.50	11.50	0%
Food Bin – 500L per lift	45.00	45.00	0%

Note: VAT (not shown) is applicable to these charges

Appendix 3 - Estimated Income from Schools

Educational Institution	Type of Institution	Estimated Income 2020/21 £
Sir John Cass Primary School	State School	2,000
City of London School	Independent	2,500
City of London School for Girls	Independent	11,000
St Paul's Cathedral School	Independent	7,500
Guildhall School of Music and Drama (Silk Street)	Further Education Institution	7,500
Guildhall School of Music and Drama (Sundial Court)	Further Education Institution	11,000
Guildhall School of Music and Drama (Milton Court)	Further Education Institution	4,000
London School of Business and Finance	Further Education Institution	5,500
New Park Nursery	Nursery	3,000
	Total	54,000