

SPECIAL ANGUS COUNCIL

27 FEBRUARY 2025

**REVIEW OF CHARGES WITHIN VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH
DIRECTORATE**

**REPORT BY VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH, KELLY MCINTOSH,
ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND IAN LORIMER, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

1. ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report sets out proposals for the charges to be levied by service areas within the Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth directorate for the financial year 2025/26.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

- 2.1 The proposals contained in this report align with the following Council Plan priority:

Efficient and Effective

- 2.2 Deliver our statutory obligations and core functions, tailored to suit our available resources and making best use of our data/performance.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) notes that this report has been prepared on the basis that the percentage increases for charges have, in the main, been applied at a rate of an average 5% rounded up where appropriate;
- (ii) approves the pricing structures as contained within the Appendix 1; and
- (iii) agrees that the charges are effective from 1 April 2025, or the start of any seasonal operations.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The charges covered by this report are reviewed continuously by Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth and all amendments to charges are reported to Members on an annual basis as part of the budget setting process. The last annual review of charges was reported to Angus Council on 29 February 2024 ([Report No. 56/24 refers](#)).
- 4.2 The review of Housing charges forms part of a separate report that is submitted to Committee with the Housing Revenue Account rent setting and budget strategy, and therefore not considered in-scope for this report. Planning and Building Standards related charges/fees are set nationally by the Scottish Government and are therefore also not considered in-scope for this report.
- 4.3 The review of charges for 2025/26 has been carried out as part of the budget setting process and it is proposed that the percentage increase be standardised in the main across the council to 5%, before accounting for VAT, where applicable. The charging structure, attached at Appendix 1, has been prepared based on this percentage increase, rounded up to the nearest 10p. There are some minor variations to the 5% particularly in relation to the wildfowling permits. There has been no increase since 2022 and changes to the management of the permits has meant that an increase in costs is necessary to support the warden activity and administration of this function.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The proposals summarised in the tables in the attached appendix would come into force on 1 April 2025 or at commencement of any seasonal operation.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 It is estimated that the increased charges for Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, as detailed in the **Appendix 1**, will generate additional income of approximately £10,000.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Corporate Risk Register

- Financial Sustainability
- Transforming for the Future

- 7.2 Directorate Risk Register

- Delivery of directorate priorities

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

- 9.1 A screening assessment has been undertaken and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required for the following reasons: - It is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics.

10. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 A Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment has been undertaken and a full assessment is not required as the "General Principles" do not apply to this proposal.

11. CONSULTATION

- 11.1 The Chief Executive and the Acting Director of Legal, Governance & Change have been consulted on this report.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

REPORT AUTHOR: Jill Paterson, Service Leader Planning and Sustainable Growth and Louise Manson, Service Manager Environment and Consumer Protection

EMAIL DETAILS: patersonjf@angus.gov.uk
mansonl@angus.gov.uk