

CABINET

Urgent Business Report

22nd January 2008

Report of Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT				
To advise Members of action taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and relevant Cabinet Members.				
Key Decision		Non-Key Decision	X	Referral from Cabinet Member
This report is public				

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the action taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, the relevant Cabinet Member and the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, in relation to the following matter, be noted:

Health and Strategic Housing Fees and Charges 2008/09

- (1) That Cabinet agree to introduce the Port Health fees outlined in the report from 1st January 2008 until Cabinet's decision on the 22 January 2008 on fees and charges comes into effect.
- (2) That consideration be given to the waiving of call-in in accordance with Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rule 17 to allow immediate implementation of the decision.

2. Summary of Decisions

Health and Strategic Housing Fees and Charges 2008/09

The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility were consulted on the implementation of ship inspection charges recommended by APHA together with the new water sample charges.

The urgency for this decision was that the new charges needed to take effect by 1st January 2008 and therefore it was impractical to defer the decision until the next meeting of Cabinet which was due to take place after the decision needed to be put into effect.

Having consulted the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rule 17(a), the Chief

Executive also agreed that call-in be waived to enable the immediate implementation of this decision.

3. Proposal Details

Consideration was given to the contents of the report set out below:

- 3.1 Charges for ship inspections under the Public Health (Ships) Regulations 1979 (as amended) have previously been prescribed by the Department of Health and therefore not part of Lancaster City Council's locally determined fees and charges.
- 3.2 Following the implementation of the International Health Regulations 2005 in June this year and changes to the procedures for ship inspections, the Department of Health no longer sets the charges and therefore future fees and charges need to be determined locally by relevant port health authorities.
- 3.3 The Association of Port Health Authorities (APHA) agreed at its meeting of 6th December 2007 to recommend to its members a standard charging regime for the issue of Ship Sanitation Exemption and Ship Sanitation Control Certificates.
- 3.4 APHA hopes that all UK ports will adopt these charges and in doing so consistency in the UK will be promoted.
- 3.5 It is proposed that the new charges recommended by APHA as shown below should come into force on 1st January 2008.

Ship Inspection Charges – as of 1st January 2008

Gross Tonnage	Charge (£)
Up to 3,000	100
3,001-10,000	150
10,001-20,000	200
20,001-30,000	230
Over 30,000	300

With the exception of:

- Vessels with the capacity to carry between 50 and 1000 persons - **£300**
- Vessels with the capacity to carry more than 1000 persons - **£500**

- 3.6 As there has been insufficient time to assess the impact of the new ships inspection procedures and whether the above charges will cover the resources required, the charges will be reviewed over the next 12 months.
- 3.7 It is also proposed to introduce a charge for taking and examining water samples requested by a ship's agent or captain. The charge takes into account officer time, transport to the laboratory and the cost of the examination. The proposed charges are as follows:-
 - Water sample as part of sanitation certificate £75.00
 - Water sample from Heysham Port £82.50
 - Water sample from Glasson Dock £95.00

4. Details of Consultation

As set out above.

5. Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

Not applicable.

6. Officer Preferred Option and Comments

Not applicable.

7. Conclusion

Approval was given to the above actions, which are reported to Cabinet in accordance with the Constitution.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

Fees and charges form an integral part of the budget setting process which in turn relates to the Council's priorities.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability etc)

N/A.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

During 2006/07 the total income from 15 ship inspections was £1,667.

2008/09 will be a transitional year both for Lancaster Port Health Authority and shipping agents on the impact of the new requirements.

At this stage, it is not known how many water samples will be requested.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The S151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The action taken complies with the requirements of the Scheme of Delegation in relation to urgent business as set out in the Constitution.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Letter to the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility and Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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