

DECISION NOTICE

Notice is given that the following decision has been taken under the Provisions set out in the Council's Constitution

Decision maker: Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure (on behalf of Leisure and Open Spaces)

Date: 18 April 2016

Decision in the matter of: Public Rights of Way Fees for Consultations with Developers: Impact of Development and Economic Activity.

Decision: That approval be given to a charging scheme for services delivered by the Public Rights of Way Team associated with developments affecting public rights of way, and that the fee for 2016/2017 be £45 per hour per officer plus travel costs.

Background: The Public Rights of Way (PROW) team performs some functions as statutory duties and others as discretionary powers. Some of those functions can be fee chargeable and some are not. Those functions that can be fee chargeable should ensure as far as possible that costs are recovered to reduce the overall service delivery costs to the Council.

The PROW team, as an arm of the Highway Authority, is a statutory consultee on planning applications and is obliged to respond to consultations put to it by the local planning authority. The extent of that obligation is to identify any public rights of way that may be affected by the proposed development and highlight the requirements upon the developer to protect the public right of way during the development process. It is often the case, however, that to provide a more responsive and holistic service PROW officers are called upon to advise developers over mitigating the impact of development on the PROW network and the most effective means of changing the network to accommodate the development.

Fees for involvement in meetings with developers and planners are already levied by Highways and are being developed by Environmental Health and a proposed fee level has been established in discussions with officers from those services. The PROW team already benchmark some fees to those of Highways and it is proposed that this schedule of fees will be benchmarked in a similar

way. In setting the proposed fees officers have taken account of actual costs and benchmarked with other services and the intention is to charge similar fees plus an element for travel as meetings are requested to be on site.

Background Documents: Background papers for this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer.

Approved:

Signed
Councillor David Brown (Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure)

Date: 19 April 2016

Advising Officer:

Signed
Brendan Flanagan (Tatton Park and Visitor Economy Manager)