

South Lakeland District Council
Lake Administration Committee
Friday, 27 January 2023
Lake Windermere Fees and Charges 2023/24

Portfolio: Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder
Report from: Section 151 Officer
Report Author: Frankie Flannigan Operational Lead Service Delivery
Wards: (All Wards);

Forward Plan:

Links to Council Plan Priorities: The fees and charges proposals form part of the Budget preparation process for Westmorland and Furness Council, who will take the final decision on the overall budget in March 2023.

Working across boundaries – N/A

Delivering a balanced community – encouraging a sustainable environment and inclusive economy, we will grow a green economy by making the best use of our parks, open spaces and lakes.

A fairer South Lakeland –N/A

Addressing the climate emergency –N/A

1.0 Expected Outcome and Measures of Success

1.1 For the fees and charges for the Lake services to be approved for the 2023/24 financial year.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that Lake Administration Committee

(1) Approve the fees and charges as shown in Appendix 1 which shows an increase of 10% to all fees and charges where practical.

2) Approves the Westmorland and Furness Section 151 Officer to build the fees and charges into the budget for Westmorland and Furness Council for 2023/24.

3.0 Background and Proposals

3.1 Due to Local Government Reorganisation (“LGR”), fees and charges have been dealt with by the fees and charges LGR workstream (which is comprised of officers from all the authorities in LGR reorganisation) who have been tasked with the budget setting for the new Westmorland and Furness authority. There are over 1,000 fees and charges to be reviewed and considered to align charges between the four authorities that will merge to form Westmorland and Furness Council. Westmorland and Furness Shadow Authority Cabinet considered the harmonisation of fees and charges in November 2022. Where services are dependent on their geographical location, such as land and car parking, there are individual factors to take into consideration when

setting the fees and charges for such services. For example, car parking fees and charges may wish to be set to achieve local objectives, such as encouraging use of the high street, or managing traffic in town centres. For such services falling into this category, it was agreed that the current rates are not harmonised, and this principle applied to the relevant services. Therefore fees relating to Lake Windermere will not be based on comparable services elsewhere in the Westmorland and Furness area. The outcome of the consideration by the fees and charges workstream is the request to recommend to the members of the Committee the proposed increase in fees.

- 3.2 The Committee has the responsibility to set the annual Fees and Charges. When considering the Fees and Charges, the Committee need to take account of service demand, equity and value for money and the budget strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) requirements of the future Westmorland and Furness Council. The Committee is also required to ensure that the requirements of any Corporate Charging Policy have been followed: Westmorland and Furness do not currently have a policy so the latest policy of South Lakeland District Council has been applied.
- 3.3 The increase in fees are in due to the current inflationary pressures CPI currently at 10.7% and RPI currently around 14% at the time of writing this report,. The proposed 10% uplift reflects the inflationary pressures we are experiencing and in order to ensure we can meet our additional running costs it is proposed to increase fees and charges on the lake by 10% on all fees. These are unprecedented times with significant additional costs to the Council and we must minimise that cost to the council tax payer and the 10% uplift will achieve that.

4.0 Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Fees and Charges for 2023/24

5.0 Consultation

- 5.1 The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources the Finance Lead Specialist, have been consulted on the proposed fees and charges. The fees and charges work stream have been carrying out this work as directed by the LGR board

6.0 Alternative Options

- 6.1 To not increase fees and charges. This is not recommended and would not be in line with the Medium Term Financial Plan.

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

- 7.1 The future year's income base budgets were set by South Lakeland District Council within the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and this has already had inflationary growth built into them. The MTFP for 2023/24 approved in February 2022, included a target income increase of 2%. Since then, inflation and costs have significantly increased and currently inflation exceeds 10%. Westmorland and Furness Council have not yet approved a budget or MTFP for 2023/24 due to the complexity of disaggregating and aggregating budgets for the 7 authorities in Cumbria which will form Westmorland and Furness Council, Cumberland Council or will transfer to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria. Officers have been requested to use 10% to increase budgets where appropriate and achievable. The MTFP requires that Fees and Charges need to be consistent with income budgets

Human Resources

- 7.2 There are no Human Resource implications with this proposal.

Legal

- 7.3.1 Legal input will be required to prepare any licences, encroachment agreements as well as to deal with any challenges to the Encroachment areas and fee increases. Costs may be required to cover any legal action we decide to take. Our fees and charges are set by the Council.
- 7.3.2 Furthermore, legal input may be necessary to respond to any issues that might impact upon the effective operation of the service and the level of fees that can be charged.

Health and Sustainability Impact Assessment

- 7.4 Have you completed a Health and Sustainability Impact Assessment? No
- 7.5 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: Not felt to be applicable as this is relating to fees and charges for services that are delivered year on year.

Equality and Diversity

- 7.6 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No
- 7.8 If you have not completed an Impact Analysis, please explain your reasons: Not felt to be applicable as this is relating to fees and charges for services that are delivered year on year.

Risk Management	Consequence	Controls required
Economic impact due to Covid and Brexit.and the cost of living crisis. Unprecedented inflationary pressures	Impact on overall Lake users which will impact on income, services and overall visitor economy	To monitor the situation and seek input from Finance and the Economic Development team.
That fees are increased beyond a level that the majority of users find acceptable and user levels fall.	Reduced income and increased pressure to raise fees further within a diminishing market.	Keep fees affordable and realistic in order to retain existing clients and secure new customers by providing an efficient well managed service.
That fees are not increased in line with CPI.	Overall reduction in income when compared with inflation.	Keep fees affordable and realistic in order to retain existing clients and secure new customers by providing an efficient well managed service.

Contact Officers

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Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
Westmorland and Furness Council: Draft Budget Process 2023/24 & Medium Term Financial Plan	Westmorland and Furness (moderngov.co.uk)

Name of Background document	Where it is available
Westmorland and Furness Council Fees and Charges Harmonisation Both reports considered by Westmorland and Furness Shadow Authority Cabinet on 11 th November 2022	

Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent	Date Signed off
Section 151 Officer	06/01/2023	06/01/2023
Monitoring Officer	06/01/2023	17/01/2023
CMT	18/01/2023	

Circulated to	Date sent
Lead Specialist	N/A
Human Resources Lead Specialist	N/A
Communications Team	N/A
Leader	N/A
Committee Chairman	N/A
Portfolio Holder	N/A
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	N/A
Executive (Cabinet)	N/A
Council	N/A