

**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A NON-KEY DECISION
CABINET MEMBER (CORPORATE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES
AND HUMAN RESOURCES)**

ITEM:	FEES AND CHARGES																		
Date of Decision:	18th May 2006																		
Exempt:	No																		
Confidential	No																		
Urgent Decision:	No																		
Purpose:	To review the charges for fees to be levied to the general public by the Legal Services Division within the Corporate and Customer Services Department with effect from 1st July, 2006.																		
Decision:	<p>THAT (a) the fee increases for the Land Charge Services for 2006/2007 are in line with inflation; and cover increased staff and service costs; and</p> <p>(b) the new fees, as detailed in the schedule below, take effect on 1st July, 2006.</p> <p>Land Charge Search Fees</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="608 1294 1481 1597"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="608 1294 991 1328">Item</th> <th data-bbox="991 1294 1209 1328">Existing Fee</th> <th data-bbox="1209 1294 1481 1328">Proposed Fee</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 1373 991 1406">Basic Search Fee</td> <td data-bbox="991 1373 1209 1406">£135.00</td> <td data-bbox="1209 1373 1481 1406">£140.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 1417 991 1451">Basic Search submitted</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 1462 991 1496">By NLIS</td> <td data-bbox="991 1462 1209 1496">£111.00</td> <td data-bbox="1209 1462 1481 1496">£116.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 1507 991 1541">Additional Parcels of land</td> <td data-bbox="991 1507 1209 1541">£30.00</td> <td data-bbox="1209 1507 1481 1541">£35.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 1552 991 1585">Part II enquiries</td> <td data-bbox="991 1552 1209 1585">£15.00</td> <td data-bbox="1209 1552 1481 1585">£20.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Item	Existing Fee	Proposed Fee	Basic Search Fee	£135.00	£140.00	Basic Search submitted			By NLIS	£111.00	£116.00	Additional Parcels of land	£30.00	£35.00	Part II enquiries	£15.00	£20.00
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Reasons for the Decision:	<p>The level of fees proposed is estimated to cover the cost of the service provided. Customs and Excise have indicated that the proposed fees are exempt from VAT because they relate to a non-business activity of the Council.</p> <p>The Audit Commission has published a management paper on fees and charges entitled 'The Price is Right'. This report identified that Best Value provides an excellent opportunity to use charges for services to assist in the delivery of priorities, improve services and generate income.</p> <p>With consistent falls in revenue support grant and other budgetary pressures the Audit Commission consider that Council's need to focus on other sources of income and the level of service they can fund. If individual service areas cannot</p>																		

	<p>contribute directly towards the Council's ambitions and policies then the assumption is that income maximisation should be the goal.</p> <p>Our own District Audit, in a Management letter to the Council pointed out that whilst charges are inevitably about raising income, they are also central to how services are delivered, and can be used to control access, respond to competition, fund investment and influence user behaviour.</p>
Options Considered:	There are no viable alternative options.
Declaration of Interest:	None.

<p>COUNCILLOR MRS JP FRENCH:..... Date: 18th May 2006 CABINET MEMBER (CORPORATE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND HUMAN RESOURCES)</p>
