

## THE EXECUTIVE

11 MARCH 2003

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

<b>PLANNING POST SEARCH AND OTHER ENQUIRY CHARGES</b>		<b>FOR DECISION</b>
<i>This report is submitted to the Executive as it proposes new fees and charges for Planning Post and Other enquiry Charges.</i>		
<b><u>Summary</u></b> In accordance with the guidelines laid down by Charging Policy Commission, this report considers proposed Planning enquiry charges to be adopted for 2003/2004.		
<b><u>Recommendation</u></b> The Executive is asked to approve the increased charges for Planning Post Search and Consultancy enquiries for 2003-04 as detailed in this report.		
<b><u>Reason.</u></b> The increase reflects the cost of the service provided.		
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#### **1. Post Search Enquiries**

- 1.1 Charges are made to solicitors or members of the public following a request for additional information resulting from Land searches. Under the Local Authorities (Charges for Land Searches) Regulations 1994, as well as a charge for the initial search, Local Authorities are empowered to charge for any information as a result of the sale of property. The charge currently levied for this service is £29.60 (inclusive of VAT) where no site visit is required and £44.50 where it is required. This service was previously provided free of charge but from April 2001 a charge was introduced, and was set having regard to what constituted a reasonable charge for the service provided
- 1.2 The projected hourly cost to the Council of providing this service in 2003-04 is £33.00 for non-site visit and £49.50 with site visit.

#### **2. Consultancy Enquiries**

This service is very similar to the post search Enquiry cost detailed above. This charge occurs where a consultant in preparing a report for private clients will request research work from the Local Planning authority. The Council currently charges for this work on an hourly basis at £60.00 per hour based on market rates.

#### **3. Proposed Charges**

Attached at **Appendix A** are the current and proposed charges for Planning Post search and other enquiries for 2003-04. By implementing these charges the service will be covering its full costs.

**Background Papers used in the preparation of this Report**

None