

Report of the Head of Operational Support

Review of Cost Recovery for Chargeable Special Services – 2017/18

Purpose of report

1. To increase the cost recovery based charges made for certain operational non-emergency special services calls by the Authority.

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

i) the fees for chargeable operational non-emergency special services be revised as set out in Appendix 1 with immediate effect;

ii) in future this item be considered annually as part of the Budget and Precept Report to the Fire Authority.

Introduction and Background

2. Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (HWFRS) have a statutory obligation to provide a range of services across the two counties. HWFRS may also use their services and equipment for purposes other than fighting fires and rescues and are able in certain circumstances to recover the costs for such services under Section 18A of the Fire Services Act 2004.
3. These activities are known as “chargeable special services” and cost recovery will take place where appropriate, it should however be noted that not all special services are chargeable. Annual income from these limited types of activities is extremely modest and infrequent (income from these activities is variable however last year 2016/17 totalled £20,668).
4. The Authority has previously (in 2010/11) agreed the types of incidents where chargeable cost recovery will apply, as follows:
 - Lift rescues and gaining access
 - Environmental protection (non-emergency) services
 - Non domestic water removal and pumping services
 - Dangerous structures
 - Officer and staff hourly rates for applicable work requests
 - Statutory allowed charges for data and information requests

Except in the case of certain statutorily prescribed fees, the level of charges has to be based on cost recovery and cannot include a profit element. This paper is not seeking to change or modify the above criteria; however, this paper does seek an increase in cost recovery based charges for these services, in line with the rising costs incurred by the Authority.

Fees and Charges

5. The Authority has maintained the level of fees and charges without any increases since the last review was carried out in 2010/11, which was set at £217 per hour for a standard fire engine and crew and proportional amounts for other assets and staff.
6. A review has recently been undertaken by the Treasurer to assess the levels of fees and charges currently applied within the Authority against a cost recovery model. These costs have also been compared with other neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services.
7. The proposed revised costs in this paper also broadly align to the level of cost recovery based fees and charges applied by Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service.
8. It is proposed that the charge is increased to £239.17 excluding VAT, which after application of current VAT results in a charge of £287 for a standard fire engine and crew per hour. Other assets will have a similar proportionate rise applied (See Appendix 1), and statutory permitted charges for data and information requests will be also be applied, as appropriate.

Future Annual Review

9. It is proposed that the chargeable special services will be reviewed in February 2018 for 2018/19 and annually thereafter as part of the Annual Budget and Precept Report.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	None
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	None
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	None
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	None
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	None – N/A

Supporting information

Appendix 1 – 2017/18 Fees and Charges

Contact Officer

Jon Pryce, Area Commander

Head of Operations Support

Tel: 01905 368237

Email: jpryce@hwfire.org.uk

Appendix 1

Fees and Charges - 2017/18

EXPENDITURE TYPE		2010/11 INCLUSIVE OF VAT (where relevant)		REVISED NET TOTAL	VAT TO BE APPLIED	PROPOSED CHARGE FROM 1 DECEMBER 2017	ANNUAL AVERAGE INCREASE %
Attendance by pumping appliance (inclusive of crew)		260.40		239.17	47.83	287.00	1.5%
Attendance by special appliance (inclusive of crew)		346.80		318.33	63.67	382.00	1.4%
Attendance by ancillary vehicles		87.95		80.83	16.17	97.00	1.5%
High Volume Pump (HVP) deployment and recovery		1,296.00		1,190.83	238.17	1,429.00	1.5%
And per hour		408.00		375.00	75.00	450.00	1.5%
Attendance by personnel:							
- Firefighter, Crew and Watch Commander		40.19		36.67	7.33	44.00	1.2%
- Station Commander		46.21		42.50	8.50	51.00	1.5%
- Officers above Station Commander		53.81		49.17	9.83	59.00	1.4%
- Others, support staff, mechanics		20.47		19.17	3.83	23.00	1.8%
Interviewing officers x rate of role							
Costs of travel and subsistence incurred		183.60		168.33	33.67	202.00	1.4%
Data Protection Act – Subject Access request; where an individual arranges with the Service, to specifically inspect or request a copy of the data held that they are entitled to view.		10.00	Standard	10.00	n/a	10.00	