

OTHER SERVICE CHARGES

The Adults and Housing Department administers a plethora of charges associated with providing services to tenants as part of their rent. Officers propose the following for Members' consideration:

(i) Use of Guest Room (Sheltered Housing Schemes)

The charge for use of the guest room at Sheltered Housing Schemes is not capable of precise calculation. In 2006/07, the charge was increased by 50p because no increase had been applied for a number of years. It is, therefore, recommended that no increase be applied to this charge for 2008/09.

(ii) Replacement Pass Books or Rent Cards

In 2006/07, the charge for a replacement pass book or rent card was increased by £1.50 to £2.50 – the first increase in 10 years. The charge for a replacement pass book or rent card is intended to cover the cost involved in supplying and updating the new document. It is, therefore, recommended that no increase be applied to this charge for 2008/09.

(iii) Information on Mortgages and Property Types/Conditions, etc.

The department continues to receive a large number of requests for ad hoc information in connection with mortgages and property type/condition, etc. As the work involved is very time consuming, it is felt appropriate to levy the charge on all requests for information in connection with mortgages and property types and condition, etc., excluding those requests from tenants for information in connection with tenants' statutory rights under Right to Buy legislation.

In 2006/07, the charge was increased by £60 to £75 – the first increase for a number of years. It is, therefore, recommended that no increase be applied to this charge for 2008/09.

(iv) Hostel Charges

It is recommended that the charge for hostel rent is increased by 5% to cover inflation and additional energy costs (gas and electricity). This increase will qualify for Housing Benefit payments.

(v) Other Charges

All other charges to increase in line with the Government's guideline figure of 4%.

Miscellaneous Payments

The current list of payments is considered reasonable and, therefore, no increase is