

CABINET – 24 MAY 2016

PROPOSED FEES FOR THE SUPPLY OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENT DATA

Report by Director of Environment & Economy

Introduction

1. This report presents proposals for a schedule of fees for the supply of traffic accident data.

Background

2. The Traffic and Road Safety Team within the Highways and Transport service currently provide road traffic accident data free of charge to transport consultants acting for developers (and also occasionally to other professional parties – for example solicitors). Following advice received in 2012 from colleagues in the Freedom of Information Team, it is understood that such data may come under the Environmental Information Regulations, for which no charge is made. As a result of this advice, the previous fee for the supply of the data was discontinued.
3. No fees were charged previously for the supply of accident data to public bodies, including the Highways Agency/ Highways England, or to members of the public (other than if in connection with a planning application).
4. A recent review of the above has concluded that it is permissible for a fee to be charged to cover the staff time and any other disbursements for the supply of such data. The fees set out in Annex 1 are suggested as appropriate when responding to requests for accident data from transport consultants and other commercial/ professional parties, taking account of the typical time required processing these requests. For comparison, information on fees has been obtained from other highway authorities in the south east region, as set out in Annex 2.
5. It is not proposed at present to apply fees for supplying accident data to public bodies or to members of the public (including for example students) if the request does not relate to a planning application.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

6. On average approximately two requests for traffic accident data per week are received which would be subject to the proposed fees, resulting in an approximate annual income of £12,500.

RECOMMENDATION

7. The Cabinet is **RECOMMENDED** to recommend to Council to approve the use of the proposed fees as set out in Annex 1.

Report by Sue Scane, Director for Environment and Economy

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ANNEX 1

Proposed fees for the supply of traffic accident data

Reason for data request	Service provided	Proposed fee
Planning matter or other professional purpose	Supply of accident data – first location / date range	£140
	Supply of accident data – second and each subsequent location / date range	£75
	Search of records to establish if there is any relevant data (in cases where there is no data to supply)	£40
Other purpose (e.g. for town or parish council, or for educational purposes)	Supply of accident data / search of records to establish if there is any relevant data	No charge

ANNEX 2

Fees currently charged by other local authorities for which information is available:

Authority	Fee
Buckinghamshire	£160 (£15 for nil return)
East Sussex	£120 via Sussex Safer Roads Partnership
Medway	Sliding scale from £50 (highest quoted £682.20)
Milton Keynes	£79.95 (extra for larger areas)
Slough Borough	£200 for 5 years and £150 for 3 years
Southampton Highways Partnership	£135
West Berkshire	£112 up to 10 plus £36 plus VAT for each additional 10
West Sussex	£120 via Sussex Safer Roads Partnership
Windsor and Maidenhead	£129 for 3 years and £215 for 5 years (up to 1km), Pro-rata over 1km
Wokingham	Sliding scale from £158 to £278