

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER**  
**SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES**  
**DECISION NOTICE**

Publication Date: 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022

At the meeting of the Portfolio Holder – Safer and Stronger Communities, held on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022 the following matters were discussed. The decisions of the Portfolio Holder are set out below in each item along with reasons for the decision and other options considered.

**DNPH.SSC.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made with regard to any items on the agenda for this meeting.

**DNPH.SSC.2 REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR PORT HEALTH, REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT SERVICES 2023/24**

The Portfolio Holder considered a report that provided an update to the locally set charges within Port Health to ensure that the Council could maintain the provision of services within the agreed budget envelope with the aim of achieving full cost recovery for any discretionary services we provide.

**RESOLVED –**

**1. That the Fees and Charges, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report be implemented from 1st February 2023 be approved.**

**2. That option 2; Increase import and export controls fees and charges to the average based costs identified through benchmarking exercise with other port health authorities be approved.**

**REASONS FOR DECISION –**

All Fees and Charges within the Regulation and Enforcement Service are reviewed at least annually to ensure that they reflect the costs of providing the service.

However, during the first half of 2022-2023, following a high degree of uncertainty in respect of demand levels given the impact of EU Exit on trade flows and a further government delay in implementation of EU import controls, anticipated service demand from chargeable activities has not materialised. Following a staffing and operational review there is an increase in service delivery costs of both import and export work, a gap between service delivery costs and associated charges has been identified, meaning full cost recovery is not being achieved. In order to effectively deliver both statutory import controls (for which full cost recovery is mandatory) and discretionary export controls on goods being dispatched from North East Lincolnshire, thereby supporting the local food cluster, in year reviews of charges are necessary.

In addition, Governments decisions to delay the implementation of border checks on EU goods, with an expected date by the end of 2023 has made giving clarity over a 'break even' position for imported food control is unlikely to be fully established until 2023-24 at the earliest and further incremental reviews of fees and charges may be likely.

#### OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

For these locally set fees and charges, the following options were considered:

**Option 1 - No increase at all (Not Recommended)**

The impact of this would be that we would not recovery the full costs associated with delivering both statutory & discretionary services aimed at protecting public health and facilitating trade. In terms of official control charges at Border Control Posts, NELC would remain the port health authority charging the least amount for standard import checks.

**Option 2 – Increase import and export controls fees and charges to the average based costs identified through benchmarking exercise with other port health authorities. (Recommended)**

The impact of this would be that NELC would be around the mid-point for official control charges compared with other port health authorities operating BCPs.

**Option 3 - Increase import and export controls fees and charges to the highest based costs identified through benchmarking exercise with other port health and local authorities. (Not recommended)**

The impact of this would be that NELC would the most expensive port health authority in the UK in terms of standard official control

charges on relevant imports. This may affect the competitiveness of Grimsby-Immingham port compared to other GB points of entry.