



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Scrutiny Commission 1 February 2024
Council 22 February 2024

Wards affected: All

FEES and CHARGES 2024/2025

Report of Head of Finance

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To obtain approval of the proposed scale of Fees and Charges for 2024/2025.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That Council approves the Fees and Charges book for 2024/2025.

3. Background to the report

3.1 The Council charges for a number of services that are provided to the public.

3.2 The estimated income from fees and charges for 2024/25 is £6.8 million. This is an increase of £0.778m from the prior year.

Charging Principles

- 3.3 A number of principles are followed when considering fees and charges. In general terms, all applicable services should be charged for unless there is a valid reason for an exception to be made. These exemptions include, but are not limited to:
- Instances where the administrative cost of levying and recovering the charge would outweigh any potential income
 - Where policy has been passed to fund the service from Council Tax or other dedicated funding streams (e.g. grants)
 - Circumstances where charging would significantly deter demand
 - Where statute dictates that charges cannot be made.

- 3.4 When setting scales of charges, the following factors are taken into consideration:
- Statutory obligations
 - Inflation and relevant indices
 - Local market research and competition (where relevant)
 - The impact of price changes on activity level or demand
 - Budget position and links to the MTFs and the Corporate Plan
 - The cost of providing the service.
- 3.5 A rate comparable with Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is a measure of inflation, has been used as an index where appropriate for up-rating charges from prior year. A rate of 3% has been used in line with average inflation rates for 2024/2025.
- 3.6 The Fees & Charges show the 2023/24 and 2024/25 charges, along with the percentage increases applied. Fees have either been inflated or set in accordance with relevant statutory guidance e.g. Fixed Penalty Notices and those under the Gambling and Licensing Acts have been set in line with relevant guidance.
- 3.7 Based on the current contract, leisure centre charges have been set by Places for People who will operate the leisure centre.
- 3.8 Planning fees reflect the statutory increase that came into effect from 6th December 2023. This was approved at Council on the 28th November 2023.
- 3.9 In the majority of cases where discretionary charges can be made, increases have been made in line with inflation.
- 3.10 The major changes above the inflation figure of 3% that have an impact on the budgets are listed below:-

	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	Increase %
Refuse Collection			
Garden waste collection (annual subscription per bin)	37.50	42.50	13.33
Other housing charges (private sector)			
Accommodation certificate	160.00	170.00	6.25
Clean neighbourhoods - fixed penalty notices - statutory charges			
Litter	150.00	400.00	167.67
Graffiti and fly posting	150.00	400.00	167.67
Fly tipping S33(1)(a) Environmental Protection Act 1990	400.00	800.00	100.00

	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	Increase %
Rival markets			
One day event	198.00	210.00	6.06
Two day event	338.80	360.00	6.26
Three day event	396.00	420.00	6.06
Street trading consents			
Annual consent	970.00	1030.00	6.19
Daily consent	100.00	106.00	6.00
	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	Increase %
Animal establishments			
Ordinary Pet Shops	238.38	254.94	6.95
Riding establishments	294.29	314.73	6.95
Dog breeding	194.96	208.55	6.97
Keeping or training animals for exhibition	240.34	257.05	6.95
Boarding for cats and dogs	143.22	153.22	6.98
Reassessment of star rating	109.15	116.77	6.98
Season Tickets			
Residents parking season ticket (restricted availability)			
Long stay per year	50.00	55.00	10.00
Refuse collection			
Bulky item collection - 50% reduction available for those on benefits			
Upholstered seating (POP's) item – up to 2 items or less	35.00	37.50	7.14
Each additional Upholstered seating item (POP's) max 5 per collection	15.00	16.50	10.00
General items (excluding POP's) - up to 3 items	35.00	37.50	7.14
Each additional general item (excluding POP's) max 5 per collection	10.00	11.00	10.00
Interments - Including natural burials - Existing Brick Grave (Turf & soil removal) new charge	-	120	-

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

4.1 Report taken in open session.

5. Financial implications [CS]

5.1 Contained in the body of the report

6. Legal implications [MR]

- 6.1 The council's powers to charge can arise from mandatory powers, express discretionary powers or implied or incidental powers.
- 6.2 Mandatory powers are set out in the functional legislation such as the power to charge for planning applications set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- 6.3 Section 93 Local Government Act 2003 gives the Council power to charge for discretionary services, but not in cases where there is already power to charge under other legislation e.g. power to charge for the use of a swimming pool pursuant to the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976.
- 6.4 The power to charge under Section 93 can only be used for services which the Council is empowered to provide.
- 6.5 The Section 93 power is not intended to provide a new income stream; its aim is to allow the Council to recover the costs of providing services, and there is a general duty on the Council to secure that, from one year to the next, the income from charges for services does not exceed the costs of provision.

7. Corporate Plan implications

- 7.1 The budget will have an indirect impact on all other Corporate Plan targets.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 All budget holders, Corporate Operations Board and the Strategic Leadership Board have been consulted throughout the budget setting process.

9. Risk implications

- 9.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Risk Description	Mitigating Actions	Owner
That the Council has insufficient resources to meet its aspirations and cannot set a balanced budget	A budget strategy is produced to ensure that the objectives of the budget exercise are known throughout the organisation. The budget is scrutinised on an ongoing basis to ensure that assumptions are robust and reflective of financial performance. Sufficient levels of reserves and balances are maintained to ensure financial resilience	J Kenny

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

- 10.1 The budget process will impact on all areas of the Borough and all groups within the population
- 10.2 Where concessions are made for certain groups for charging purposes these are detailed in the attached booklet

11. Climate implications

- 11.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report

12. Corporate implications

- 12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
- Community Safety implications
 - Environmental implications
 - ICT implications
 - Asset Management implications
 - Procurement implications
 - Human Resources implications
 - Planning implications
 - Data Protection implications
 - Voluntary Sector

Background papers: Fees and Charges submissions
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