



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Scrutiny Commission	26 th January 2023
Council	23 rd February 2023
Wards affected:	All

FEES and CHARGES 2023/2024

Report of Head of Finance

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To obtain approval of the proposed scale of Fees and Charges for 2023/2024.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That Council approve the Fees and Charges book for 2023/2024.

3. Background to the report

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

3.2 The Council generates income of circa £6.1 million from these sources annually to ensure it can continue to provide vital services to the communities of Hinckley and Bosworth. This has become increasingly important in the context of continued decreases in government financial support to the council and local government more generally.

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 Retail Price Index (RPI), which is a measure of inflation, has been used as an index where appropriate for up-rating charges from prior year. A rate of 10% has been used in line with the Budget Strategy for 2023/2024.

2023/2024 Fees and Charges

3.6 The Fees & Charges show the 2022/23 and 2023/24 charges, along with the percentage increases applied. Fees have either been inflated or set 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 All leisure centre charges have been set by Places Leisure who will operate the leisure centre. All charges are consistent with the current contract.

3.8 In the majority of cases where discretionary charges can be made, increases have been made in line with inflation.

3.9 The major changes above the inflation figure of 10% that have an impact on the budgets are listed below:-

	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	Increase %
Market Bosworth Rectory Lane car park			
Up to 1 hour	0.30	0.60	100.00
Up to 2 hours	0.50	1.20	140.00
Up to 3 hours	1.00	2.00	100.00
Up to 4 hours	1.00	3.00	200.00
Over 4 hours	2.00	6.00	200.00
Stray dogs microchipping home visit	20.00	47.58	137.90
Stray dogs microchipping event charges	15.00	20.00	33.33
Noise nuisance			
Silencing of alarms requiring warrant (any contractors costs to be charged in addition)	148.20	333.06	124.74
Silencing of alarms without warrant (any contractors costs to be charged in addition)	75.40	190.32	152.41
Return of audio equipment seized	176.45	200.00	13.35

Pool hire	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	Increase %
Private hire – main pool (per 1 hour whole pool)	86.00	96.00	11.63
Private hire – main pool (per 1 hour per lane)	10.75	12.00	11.63
Private hire – community pool (per 1 hour)	50.00	55.80	11.63
Refuse collection			
Garden waste collection (annual subscription per bin)	35.00	37.50	7.14
Bulky items collection - changed pricing structure, the 22/23 structure is below followed by the proposed structure for 23/24			
fees and charges breakdown 22/23			
White goods/bulky item collection - 3 items or less 50% reduction available for those on benefits	30.00		
White goods/bulky item collection - 5 items 50% reduction available for those on benefits	44.50		
Each additional white goods/bulky item above 5 items	£8.80 per item		
New fees and charges breakdown 23/24			
Bulky item collection - 50% reduction available for those on benefits			
Upholstered seating (POP's) item – up to 2 items or less		35.00	
Each additional Upholstered seating item (POP's) max 5 per collection		15.00	
General items (excluding POP's) - up to 3 items		35.00	
Each additional general item (excluding POP's) max 5 per collection		10.00	

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

4.1 Report taken in open session.

5. Financial implications [IB]

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:

Management of Significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating Actions	Owner
That the Council has insufficient resources to meet its aspirations and cannot set a balanced budget	<p>A budget strategy is produced to ensure that the objectives of the budget exercise are known throughout the organisation.</p> <p>The budget is scrutinised on an ongoing basis to ensure that assumptions are robust and reflective of financial performance.</p> <p>Sufficient levels of reserves and balances are maintained to ensure financial resilience</p>	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. However budget decisions made by members in relation to issues such as Council tax, fees and charges, and in the longer-term asset investment directly affect the council's abilities to invest in climate change priorities. The financial pressure on the council will mean it become increasing difficult to meet it carbon emergency targets by 2030.

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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