



## Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision-making

Scrutiny Commission	30 January 2025
Council	20 February 2025

Wards affected: All wards

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### Fees and charges 2025/2026

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Report of Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

#### 1. Purpose of report

1.1 To obtain approval of the proposed scale of Fees and Charges for 2025/2026.

#### 2. Recommendation

2.1 That Council approve the Fees and Charges for 2025/2026.

#### 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 2025/26 is £7.2 million. This is an increase of £0.385m 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 the prior year. A rate of 2% has been used in line with average inflation rates for 2024/2025.
- 3.6 The Fees & Charges show the 2025/26 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 operate the leisure centre.
- 3.8 In the majority of cases where discretionary charges can be made, increases have been made in line with inflation.
- 3.9 Planning fees reflect the statutory increase that will come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.
- 3.10 The major variances from the inflation figure of 2% that have an impact on the budgets are listed below:-

	<b>2024/25</b> £	<b>2025/26</b> £	<b>Increase</b> %
<b>Noise nuisance</b>			
Silencing of alarms requiring warrant (any contractors costs charged in addition)	343.00	367.29	7.08
Silencing of alarms without warrant (any contractors costs to be charged in addition)	196.00	209.88	7.08
<b>Market stall licenced trader</b>			
Monday zone A	19.40	18.00	-7.22
Monday zone A - Second stall	14.55	13.50	-7.22
Monday zone A - Third and all subsequent stalls	9.70	9.00	-7.22
Monday zone B	9.70	9.00	-7.22
Monday zone B - Second stall	7.28	6.75	-7.28
Monday zone B - Third and all subsequent stalls	4.85	4.50	-7.22
<b>Market stall casual trader</b>			
Monday zone A	23.50	23.00	-14.89

Monday zone B	11.75	10.00	-14.89
Monday zone C	5.87	5.00	-14.82
Saturday bric a brac (in zone B)	11.00	12.00	9.09
Friday bric a brac (in zone B)	11.00	12.00	9.09
<b>Other housing charges (HRA)</b>			
Guest room charge per night (Mayflower Court, Centurion Court)	12.50	20.00	60.00
<b>Legal services Miscellaneous agreements</b>			
JCT minor works contract	124.00	200.00	61.29
Sealing fee	23.50	25.00	6.38
Leasehold Enquires - Form LPE1	113.50	120.00	5.73
Notice fee (Notice of Assignment/Mortgage)	56.70	60.00	5.82
<b>Charge for diversion / extinguishment of public rights of way</b>			
Stage 1 (preliminary consultation)	997.00	1200.00	20.36
Stage 2 (making order)	399.00	450.00	12.78
Stage 3 (submission to secretary of state where order opposed)	468.00	600.00	28.21
Stage 4 (confirmation of order)	235.00	300.00	27.66
<b>Bulky item collection</b>			
Upholstered seating (POPs) item – up to 2 items or less	37.50	40.00	6.67
Each additional Upholstered seating item (POPs) max 5 per collection	16.50	17.50	6.06
General items (excluding POPs) - up to 3 items	37.50	40.00	6.67
Each additional general item (excluding POPs) max 5 per collection	11.00	12.00	9.09
<b>Refuse Collection</b>			
Garden waste collection (annual subscription per bin)	42.50	47.50	11.76

#### 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 [ST]

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 aims.

**8. Consultation**

- 8.1 All budget holders, and the Strategic Leadership Team 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	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

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Background papers: Fees and Charges submissions  
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