



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision-making

Scrutiny Commission 5 February 2026
Council 19 February 2026

Wards affected: All wards

Fees and Charges 2026/2027

Report of Assistant Director Finance & Audit (Section 151 Officer)

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To obtain approval of the proposed scale of Fees and Charges for 2026/2027.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That council approve the Fees and Charges for 2026/2027.

2.2 If nationally set fees and charges for planning are updated, the Assistant Director Finance & Audit is given delegated authority to update fees and charges.

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 2026/27 is £8.8 million. This is an increase of £0.594m 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 3.8% has been used in line with September 2025 inflation rates (for HRA rents 3.8% + 1%).
- 3.6 The fees and charges show the 2026/27 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 Planning fees that are set nationally reflect the statutory increase that came into effect from 1 April 2025. Central government is yet to finalise any potential fee increases for 2026/27. When these are finalised, it is requested the Assistant Director Finance & Audit is given delegated authority to update the council's fees and charges.
- 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 variances from the inflation figure of 3.8% that have an impact on the budgets are listed below:

	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	Increase %
Hollycroft Park, Argents Mead, parks and open spaces			
Hire of bandstand, parks and open spaces (commercial events) per day	435.00	460.00	5.75
Pitch per day			
Catering stalls (pitch 3m x 6m)	95.00	100.00	5.26
Other stalls (pitch 3m x 6m)	47.50	50.00	5.26
Additional pitch to above (pitch 3m x 6m)	23.75	25.00	5.26
Allotments			
Additional key charge	10.00	15.00	50.00
Animal establishments			
Pet shops	256.81	275.48	7.27
Riding establishments	315.70	338.43	7.20
Dog breeding	209.85	227.22	8.28
Keeping or training animals for exhibition	258.68	277.79	7.39
Boarding for cats and dogs	154.95	222.32	43.48
Reassessment of star rating	117.82	128.19	8.80
Variation of licence	117.82	128.19	8.80
Stray dogs			
Microchipping - Home visit	51.88	59.84	15.34
Refuse collection			
Upholstered seating (POP's) item – up to 2 items or less	40.00	42.00	5.00
General items (excluding POP's) - up to 3 items	40.00	42.00	5.00
Each additional general item (excluding POP's) max 5 per collection	12.00	13.00	8.33
Garden waste collection (annual subscription per bin)	47.50	52.50	10.53
The Big Bin Clear out collection service			
1110 litre wheeled bin (Business collections)	80.00	85.00	6.25
660 litre wheeled bin (Business collections)	70.00	75.00	7.14
Caravan sites			
New licence	343.04	362.52	5.68
Transfer	88.39	96.72	9.42
Variation with inspection	292.11	309.36	5.91
Variation without inspection	88.39	96.72	9.42
Legal services Miscellaneous agreements			
JCT minor works contract	200.00	300.00	50.00
Sealing fee	25.00	75.00	200.00
Notice fee (Notice of Assignment/Mortgage)	60.00	65.00	8.33
Sealing fee for mortgages (redemption)	95.00	100.00	5.26

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

4.1 Report taken in open session.

5. Financial implications [MT]

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.

8.2 The Scrutiny Commission gave consideration to the fees and charges at its meeting on 5 February. The layout of the section under 'stray dogs' was queried, particularly with reference to home visits for microchipping.

A member questioned the increase in hire costs for the bandstand in Hollycroft Park as it was often used by voluntary groups and schools which should be encouraged. The presence of any discretionary reductions or waived fees was queried, and it was agreed that this information would be sought and provided to members.

Following the meeting, it was confirmed by officers that there is no charge for charities, schools and community groups to use the bandstand in Hollycroft Park.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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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