

General Fees and Charges Policy

All fees and charges are subject to the following general policy.

1. There shall be full cost recovery so that general council taxpayers are not subsidising the costs of an optional service. Any exceptions to this rule can only be agreed by cabinet. Where there is a substantial change between the current charge and the full cost recovery amount, the increase can be staggered over a period of up to three financial years.

In addition:

2. Fees and charges are increased by the current rate of inflation (generally rounded up to the nearest 10p). For 2017/18, the Consumer Price Index (CPI – which is the favoured measure of government) is showing a small inflationary impact of 0.6% (July 2016). In line with the current economic state and forecasts of inflation, the proposal is to apply no inflationary increase for 2017/18. Any changes must therefore be through changes in policy or as set out below.

The main exceptions to this rule are:

- Court fees
- Room bookings at the civic centre – voluntary organisations
- Car parking – as subject to review in the Car Park Strategy
- Building control – subject to full cost recovery of building control chargeable element.
- Contract charges with other organisations which are subject to separate negotiations

Full cost recovery must be on individual units of service rather than the overall cost recovery. There is to be no cross-subsidy within a service.