

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL DECISION



DECISION OF: COUNCILLOR MIKE SOLOMON. THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

WITH ADVICE FROM: THE DIRECTOR OF PLACE

DECISION NO: 22/23 DP 439

SUBJECT: Place Directorate Fees and Charges 2023/24

KEY DECISION: YES

REASON: The decision affects services across North Somerset.

BACKGROUND:

Fees and charges represent an important source of income, providing funding to assist in achieving the Council's objectives. Some of our fees and charges are effectively set by legislation but many are locally determined.

Income derived from charging will be used to offset the costs of providing the service being charged for, including support service costs. In setting an appropriate level of fees and charges, managers also take into account their client groups and corporate objectives

DECISION:

In accordance with the Council's constitution, this decision seeks approval for the proposed increases to fees and charges detailed in Appendix A that are over 5% and up to 10% or are estimated to generate additional annual revenue income of £100,000 to £300,000

REASONS:

- Raising revenue from charges for services is an important element in the overall financing of Council services and activities and helps to deliver service and strategic objectives.
- Consideration is therefore given, on a regular basis, to the scope for raising revenue through charges for services and to reviewing the appropriateness and adequacy of the levels of charges being proposed or actually in force.
- Services are generally given an increase in their income targets each year in accordance with agreed budget principles. This will be achieved through a combination of increases to fees and charges, increased use, and through rental and sales income where appropriate. Where information is available, changes to fees and charges will take account of changing circumstances and patterns of service use as well as known and predicted changes to service costs.
- There is a general policy presumption that the levels of fees and charges should rise, each year, in line with the rate of inflation. Accordingly, the charges proposed in each

service area should be sufficient to meet the additional fees and charges income reflected in the final draft budget, which is detailed in an annual report to the Executive.

- The following represents the range of factors, which service managers need to take into account when setting fees and charges:-
 - Charges determined by primary or secondary legislation
 - Service costs, including inflation
 - Service supply and demand
 - Market conditions
 - Benchmarking with other authorities and other providers
 - Full cost recovery for services provided
 - Affordability

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Service Managers considered alternative pricing within the guidance / framework as described above.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There is a general policy presumption that the levels of fees and charges should rise, each year, in line with the rate of inflation. Accordingly, the charges proposed in each service area should be sufficient to meet the additional fees and charges income reflected in the final draft budget, which is detailed in an annual report to the Executive.

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

Trading and charging for services has been a feature of local government for a considerable time. Specific powers to charge for services are contained in a variety of local government statutes. The Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970, the Local Government Act 2003 and the Localism Act 2011 empower councils to charge for discretionary services on a cost recovery basis

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

NA

CONSULTATION

The changes are in accordance with the Council's policy guidance and principles and, as such, no consultation has been undertaken. The revised fees and charges will be published on the Council's website

RISK MANAGEMENT

In some cases, increases in fees and charges can be a disincentive to the take up services.

No material risks have been identified in this respect.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

The contribution made by charging for council services supports other strategic objectives of the council.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – List of increases

BACKGROUND PAPERS


Report to Executive 12 April 2016 – 2016/17 Fees and Charges Schedule

<http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/docs/doc27320.pdf>

16/17 DE 302 Development and Environment Fees and Charges 2017/2018 – Flexible Pricing Policy


SIGNATORIES:

DECISION MAKER(S):

Signed:  Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Services

Date: 14 March 2023

WITH ADVICE FROM:

Signed:  Assistant Director Neighbourhoods and Transport. In accordance with delegated authority 22/23 DP 53

Date: 14 March 2023

Appendix A			
Service being charged	2022/23 charge	2023/24 charge	Is this a new charge? (Y/N)
<u>The Campus 22/23 Charges</u>			
<u>Day Delegate Packages</u>			
Full day package - external	£29.00	£30.50	No
Full day package - NSC net	£21.00	£22.50	No
Half day no lunch - NSC - net	£15.00	£16.00	No
<u>Conference Refreshments - EXTERNAL</u>			
tea/coffee per head	£1.80	£1.90	No
cakes (each)	£1.70	£1.80	No
fruit platter (per head)	£1.70	£1.80	No
<u>Conference Refreshments - INTERNAL NSC</u>			
tea/coffee per head	£1.60	£1.70	No
tea/coffee biscuits per head	£1.90	£2.00	No
cakes (each)	£1.40	£1.50	No
fruit platter (per head)	£1.40	£1.50	No
<u>Sports Hall</u>			
Adult per hour	£20.30	£22.30	No
Junior per hour (available until 7pm)	£13.70	£15.00	No
Half hall - adult per hour/badminton/basketball	£10.15	£11.15	No
Half hall - junior per hour/badminton/basketball (until 7pm)	£6.85	£7.50	No
<u>Main Hall</u>			
Standard (and Private) per hour	£29.50	£31.00	No
<u>Pool</u>			
Adult Swim	£5.25	£5.75	No
Child Swim	£3.50	£3.75	No
Family Swim (2 Adults, 3 Children)	£13.50	£14.85	No
<u>Grass Pitches</u>			
Junior Pitch - matches	33.3	36.5	No
<u>Birthday Parties</u>			
Campus Party (3 hours room hire)	£75.00	£80.00	No
Castle Batch Party (3 hours room hire)	£65.00	£70.00	No
<u>Locking Castle Children's Centre</u>			
Meeting Room - Standard per hour	£15.50	£16.50	No
<u>Somerset Hall Room Hire Only</u>			
Foyer and whole (Full day 8hs)	£199.50	£210.00	No
<u>Somerset Hall Party Package Rates</u>			
Whole hall and lounge bar area (6pm - midnight)	£275.00	£300.00	No

Whole hall, lounge bar area & stage (6pm - midnight)	£325.00	£350.00	No
Wedding parties (hourly rate)	£55.00	£60.00	No
Bar extension (midnight – 1am)	£100.00	£110.00	No
<u>memorial benches</u>			
new	£950	£1,026	No
refurbishment	£800	£864	No
concrete plinth	£270	£291.60	No
plaque alteration	£50	£54.00	No
<u>parks - games pitches etc</u>			
athletics track	£53	£57.24	No
changing rooms	£20.25	£21.87	No
drove adult	£61.50	£66.42	No
drove junior	£33.50	£36.18	No
drove training	£33.50	£36.18	No
Drove mini league	£20.50	£22.14	No
<u>Seafront Operations</u>			
Knightstone Slipway Permit	£55.00	£60.00	No
Seafront Ranger charge per hour	£35.00	£37.00	No
<u>Activities</u>			
Community/Registered Charity Activities	£30.00	£32.00	No
<u>Public Rights of Way</u>			
Pre application and further negotiations (per hour)	£59.70	£63.28	No
Informal consultations and report	£845.00	£895.70	No
Drafting, publishing and confirming order	£1,650.00	£1,749.00	No
Advertising costs (at least 2 adverts), at newspaper cost.	£900.00	£950.00	No
Copy order and map	£6.80	£7.21	No
Public Path Order cancellation fee where PPO process has begun (plus advertising costs if applicable)	£250.00	£265.00	No
<u>Trees</u>			
High hedge complaints – statutory fees			
Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, Part 8	£430.30	£456.12	No
Concessionary rate for claimants of an income-related benefit (please enquire)	£212.60	£225.36	No
<u>Tree Preservation Order</u>			
Copy (collected)	£6.50	£6.89	No
Electronic	£6.60	£7.00	No