

North Somerset Council Decision



Decision Of: Cabinet Member for Culture, Community Services and Safety

With Advice From: AD Finance and Data Insight and S151

Directorate: Corporate Services

Decision No: 2025/26 CSD159

Subject: Fees & Charges 2026/27 - Cabinet Member approval for changes that are between 5% and 10% higher compared to the previous year

Key Decision: Yes

Reason: All Cabinet Member decisions are Key Decisions although the financial impact of this decision is less than £500,000 and it does not have a significant impact on communities

Background:

Fees and charges represent an important source of income, providing finance to assist in achieving the council's broad 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.

The Council's constitution requires that any proposed increase to fees and charges that are more than 10% or are estimated to generate additional annual revenue of more than £300,000 are to be determined by the Cabinet.

Any changes to fees and charges outside these parameters will be approved by individual directors (up to 5%) and Cabinet Members (above 5% up to 10%).

The proposed increases in fees and charges , **where movements are calculated to be between 5% and 10% higher than in the previous year**, are shown in **Appendix 1** and are necessary to meet increased costs and budgetary pressures to which the council is subject and will ensure that the contribution made by fees and charges to the councils' overall income budget is maintained.

Decision:

To agree the 2026/27 fees and charges for the Corporate Services directorate that are more than 5% and up to 10% as set out in **Appendix 1** with effect from the 1 April 2026.

Changes to fees and charges outside these parameters are considered by individual Directors and Cabinet.

Reasons:

In order for the council to be able to deliver its services it needs to raise income to supplement its budget and ensure it meets the principles of full cost recovery where relevant. The council is not permitted to generate inappropriate levels of income as increases need to be proportionate and balanced, indeed some are determined by legislation and / or statutory regulation. Most of the fee increases proposed in this decision, are for updated charges following benchmarking with other authorities.

Options Considered:

A variety of options will have been considered by service managers and the proposals in this report are considered to be the most appropriate in line with council policy on matters to be considered when setting fees and charges. The key principles considered are included within the report approved by the Executive in February 2016 and linked below in the background papers.

Financial Implications:

The Medium Term Financial Plan 2026-2030 and the Revenue Budget for 2026/27 was taken to the Cabinet on the 11 February 2026. Included within this report there is general increase of 1.25% to income budgets in 2026/27 and in some areas, specific additional income targets have been included where the cost of providing the service is increasing by more than 1.25%.

The fees set out in this report are designed to ensure that these budget targets are achievable.

Legal Powers and Implications:

Trading and charging for services have 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:

There are no specific environmental or climate change impacts arising as a result of this decision.

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 charged can be a disincentive to the take up services. Service managers have taken this into consideration when reviewing charges and no material risks have been identified in this respect.

Equality Implications:

The changes are in accordance with the Council’s policy guidance and principles. An equalities impact assessment has been carried out as part of the MTFP and budget setting process for 2026/27.

Corporate Implications:

None, other than those already identified.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – schedule of fees and charges

Background Papers:

Report to Executive 2 February 2016 – Fees and Charges Policy [Committee Report NSC \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Signatories:

Decision Maker:

Signed:

Title: Cllr Mike Solomon, Cabinet Member for Culture, Community Services and Safety

Date:

With Advice From:

Signed:

Title: Melanie Watts, AD Finance and Data Insight and S151 Officer

Date:

APPENDIX 1

FEES & CHARGES 2026/27						
Corporate Services	2025/26	2026/27	Change for 26/27		Service Area	Service Manager
Library Service						
Art and photographic displays community (plus 20% commission on all items sold)	£25.00	£27.25	£2.25	9.00%	Libraries	Emma Wellard
Reservations Adult reading group set booking fee for up to 20 copies of any one title	£6.50	£7.00	£0.50	7.69%	Libraries	Emma Wellard
Talks to organisations by library staff	£50.00	£55.00	£5.00	10.00%	Libraries	Emma Wellard

Footnote: Details of changes made and agreed by the decision taker since publication of the proposed (pre-signed) decision notice, if applicable: