

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL DECISION



DECISION OF: COUNCILLOR MIKE SOLOMON
THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, COMMUNITY SERVICES
AND SAFETY

WITH ADVICE FROM: THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT, ASSETS AND TRANSPORT
SERVICES

DECISION NO: 25/26 EAT 335

SUBJECT: Fees and Charges 2026/27

KEY DECISION: Yes

REASON: The decision effects 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 and including 10% or are estimated to generate additional annual revenue income between £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 wherever possible. 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 Cabinet.

- 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 Cabinet.

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 1 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 Cabinet Member for Culture, Community Services and Safety.

Date.....

WITH ADVICE FROM:

Signed Director of Environment, Assets and Transport Services

Date.....

Appendix one – Proposed changes to fees and charges to be approved

The below changes are proposed due to inflation and an increase in staff costs:

Service Group	Service	Service being charged	2025/26 charge (£)	2026/27 charge (£)	% increase	£ increase
Parks & Seafront	Beach Huts	Annual Beach Hut License	£1,080.00	£1,150.00	6.48%	£70
Natural Environment	Tree team	Tree preservation order copy (with P&P)	£38.98	£41.00	5.18%	£2.02
Natural Environment	Tree team	Tree preservation order electronic	£7.92	£8.50	7.34%	£0.58
Natural Environment	Tree team	Anti-Social Behavior Act 2003, Part 8	£516.01	£542.00	5.04%	£25.99
Natural Environment	Tree team	Concessionary rate for claimants of an income-related benefit	£254.95	£268.00	5.12%	£13.05
Natural Environment	Public Rights of Way	Informal consultations and report	£1,012.15	£1,063.00	5.02%	£50.85
Natural Environment	Public Rights of Way	Copy order and map	£8.16	£8.57	5.02%	£0.41
Natural Environment	Public Rights of Way	Copy inc p&p (1 st class, large letter)	£11.19	£11.75	5.03%	£0.56
Parks & Seafront	Parks – games pitches etc	Athletics track	£63.22	£67.50	6.77%	£4.28
Parks & Seafront	Parks – games pitches etc	Changing rooms	£24.16	£26.00	7.62%	£1.84
Parks & Seafront	Parks – games pitches etc	Drove Road adult	£73.36	£77.50	5.64%	£4.14
Parks & Seafront	Parks – games pitches etc	Drove Road junior	£39.96	£42.00	5.11%	£2.04
Parks & Seafront	Parks – games pitches etc	Drove Road training	£39.96	£42.00	5.11%	£2.04
Parks & Seafront	Parks – games pitches etc	Drove Road mini league	£24.45	£26.00	6.34%	£1.55