

## North Somerset Council Decision



**DECISION OF:** THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

**WITH ADVICE FROM:** ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FINANCE AND DATA INSIGHT/S151

**Decision No:** 25/26 HSC 185

**Subject:** Fees and Charges 2026/27 – Director approval for changes that are up to 5% higher compared to the previous year

**Key Decision:** No

**Reason:** The financial impact of this decision is less than £500,000 and 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 consider 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 up to 5% 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 up to 5% 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 Cabinet Members 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 or are inflationary and reflect increases associated with the general cost of living.

### **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 \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](http://modern.gov.co.uk)

**Signatories:**

**Decision Maker(s):**

Signed: .....Director of Healthy and Sustainable Communities

Date: .....

**With Advice From:**

Signed: .....Assistant Director - Finance & Data  
Insight/Section 151 Officer

Date: .....

**Note that some items have already been approved by preceding Cabinet decision in February 2026 or Cabinet Member decisions 2025/26 HSC186 and HSC187**