

## North Somerset Council Decision



**DECISION OF:** CLLR ANNEMIEKE WAITE CABINET MEMBER  
FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

**WITH ADVICE FROM:** DIRECTOR OF HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES  
AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FINANCE AND DATA INSIGHT/S151 OFFICER

**Decision No:** 25/26 HSC 186

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

**Key Decision:** Yes

**Reason:** This decision affects services across North Somerset

### **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 Healthy and Sustainable Communities directorate 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 related to external factors such as legislation and inflation and 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 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](http://moderngov.co.uk)

**Signatories:**

**Decision Maker(s):**

Signed:  Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment

Date: 5 March 2026

**With Advice From:**

Signed:  Director of Healthy and Sustainable Communities

Date: 5 March 2026

Signed:  Assistant Director Finance and Data Insight/S151 Officer

Date: 5 March 2026