



**Policy, Finance and
Development
Committee**

**Tuesday, 01
November 2016**

Matter for Decision

Title: Proposed Scale of Fees and Charges 2017/18

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report outlines the proposed scale of fees and charges for areas covered by this Committee for the financial year 2017/18.

2. Recommendations

That Members consider and approve the proposed fees and charges for 2017/18.

3. Information

- 3.1 The Council charges for a number of its services that are provided to the public. All fees and charges are reviewed on an annual basis as part of the budget setting process.
- 3.2 When setting scales of charges, the following factors are taken into consideration:
- Statutory obligations;
 - Policies and objectives of the Council;
 - Inflation and relevant indices;
 - Local market research and competition (where relevant);
 - The impact of price changes on activity level or demand;
 - Changes in taxation;
 - Budget position and any associated gap; and
 - The cost of providing the service.
- 3.3 As at July 2016, the Retail Price Index (RPI), which is a measure of inflation stood at 1.9%. This has been used as a guide for Heads of Service when considering the 2017/18 increase.
- 3.4 Appendix 1 shows the current and next year's proposed charges together with any specific explanation of the change to any individual charge. A summary of changes by service area has been provided overleaf.

3.5 Recreation Grounds, Pavilion Hire and Allotments

These have gone up broadly in line with RPI with the exception of the bowling facilities, which have stayed the same, as this authority's charges are already higher than our neighbouring Leicestershire Districts. A degree of realignment is also recommended this year to make charges consistent across the service.

3.6 Cemeteries

The Council's charges for its two cemeteries have long lagged behind its neighbour Leicester City. As a result it is recommended that charges Oadby and Wigston Cemeteries are increased significantly with the view of further closing this gap over

the next two years.

3.7 Car Parks

It is proposed that the charge for parking in designated car parks for a period in excess of three hours remains at £3.

3.8 Housing

New charges are to be introduced relating to charges and contributions to emergency and homeless accommodation. This will help cover any short fall in housing benefit that the Council receives.

3.9 Environmental Health

Charges relating to Environmental Health have been reviewed already in this financial year and as a result it is recommended that those which were increased remain the same for 2017/18 while an RPI increase has been applied to the rest.

3.10 Leisure Centres

Under the current contract the service provider, Sports and Leisure Management Ltd, have to provide the Council with their proposed charges three months before the start of the contract year. Members will be informed of these proposals during the next committee cycle.

3.11 Planning

Many of the charges within the Development Control area have remained fixed for a number of years. It is recommended that these are realigned to cover the cost of production

3.12 Licensing

A large proportion of Licensing charges are set by statute. Those charges that are not set by statute have been reviewed to make sure they are in line with other neighbouring authorities while making every effort to cover the cost of the licence.

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Implications	
Financial (CR)	The Council should always look to maximise its income where ever possible.
Legal (AC)	Statutory increases in charges are incorporated within the proposals embodied within this report.
Risk (CR)	CR1 - Decreasing Financial Resources CR9 - Economy
Equalities (CR)	Fees and charges proposed are across the services which the Council provides; services accessible and available to all.
	Equality Assessment:- <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Screening <input type="checkbox"/> Full Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable