



<b>Policy, Finance and Development Committee</b>	<b>Tuesday, 26 November 2019</b>	<b>Matter for Decision</b>
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**Report Title:** **Review of Scale of Fees & Charges (2020/21)**

**Report Author(s):** **Chris Raymakers (Financial Services Manager)**

<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	This report is to allow Members to consider, review and approve the proposed scale of fees and charges for the financial year 2020/21 for the Council.
<b>Report Summary:</b>	Charges consist of both those set by statute and those set by this Council. Charges set by Council that are increased in line with inflation will be uplifted by the Consumer Price Index at September 2019 which was 1.7%.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	<b>A. That members approve the proposed Scale of Fees and Charges for 2020/21 (as set out in Appendix 1); and B. That delegated authority be given to the Chief Financial Officer to allow flexibility to charging charges to encourage a more commercial approach to maximising income.</b>
<b>Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):</b>	Clive Mason (Chief Financial Officer) (0116) 257 2736 <a href="mailto:clive.mason@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">clive.mason@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a>  Chris Raymakers (Financial Services Manager) (0116) 257 2891 <a href="mailto:chris.raymakers@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">chris.raymakers@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a>
<b>Corporate Objectives:</b>	Building, Protecting and Empowering Communities (CO1) Growing the Borough Economically (CO2) Providing Excellent Services (CO3)
<b>Vision and Values:</b>	Customer Focus (V5)
<b>Report Implications:-</b>	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	It is important for the Council to maximise its income from fees and charges.
Corporate Risk Management:	Decreasing Financial Resources / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1) Regulatory Governance (CR6) Reputation Damage (CR4)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable.
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.

<b>Statutory Officers' Comments:-</b>	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
<b>Consultees:</b>	Heads of Service
<b>Background Papers:</b>	Fees and Charges Working Papers
<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>1.</b> Scale of Fees & Charges (2020/21)

## **1. Information**

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 When setting fees and 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
- 1.3 As at September 2019 the Consumer Price Index, which is a measure of inflation, stood at 1.7%. This has been used as a guide for Heads of Service when considering any increases for 2020/21.
- 1.4 The fees and charges the Council sets for its services are an important income stream. It is therefore vital that they are set at the appropriate level while giving value for money to its customers. If these two facets of the charging process are achieved they will help mitigate the risks to the Council identified above.

## **2 Information By Service**

- 2.1 The majority of services have increased their fees and charges by the Inflation rate above, rounding the amount in order to provide a simple, easy to understand charge. Where services have deviated from this an explanation is detailed below. If a charge is set by statute this is indicated as part of Appendix 1

### **2.2 Licensing**

Taxi Licences have been held at the same price for 2020/21. This will allow a new licensing policy to be introduced following any appropriate consultation required. Overall the increase in charge would yield around £3,000

## 2.3 Cemeteries

The cost of an Exhumation has been adjusted in order for it to match the cost of an interment. This has resulted in the prices at 6.6 (g) and (f) being reduced. Overall the increase in prices should yield around £2,500

## 2.4 Leisure Centres

The costs of entry into the Leisure Centres are proposed to increase by inflation as per the contract with Sports and Leisure Management. The charges will come into force from the 1 January which is the anniversary of the start of the contract.

## 2.5 Allotments

Previously allotments have been priced per 100 square yards, it is proposed that pricing is by each square yard to take into account the varying sizes of the plots.

## 2.6 Garden Waste Service

The charging for the garden waste service was introduced for the financial year 2018/19 and has been held at £35 for the first two years and the service has built a customer base of around 9,300 households. Charging in other Leicestershire Districts is currently as follows.

Council	Charge
Melton	£64
Leicester City	£51
Charnwood	£45
Harborough	£40
Blaby	£36
Rutland	£35
Hinckley and Bosworth	£24

It is proposed that the charge for 2020/21 is increased to £40 which will still leave the Council charging at no more than the average price for authorities within the County, not withstanding any intended price increases by our neighbouring authorities. It is proposed that the charge for additional bins remains unchanged this year. Overall the increase should yield around £45,000 each year.