

FEES AND CHARGES 2023-24

Summary: This report recommends the fees and charges for the financial year 2023-24 that will come into effect from 1st April 2023.

Options considered: Alternatives for the individual service fees and charges now being proposed will have been considered as part of the process in arriving at the fees presented within the report.

Conclusions: The fees and charges as recommended have been used to inform the income budgets for the 2023/24 budget.

Recommendations: **That Cabinet agree and recommend to Full Council:** a) **The fees and charges from 1 April 2023 as included in Appendix A.**
b) **That Delegated Authority be given to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and relevant Heads of Service, to agree those fees and charges not included within Appendix A as required as outlined within the report**

Reasons for

Recommendations: To approve the fees and charges as set out in the report that will have been used to support the 2023/24 budget process.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

(Papers relied on to write the report, which do not contain exempt information and which are not published elsewhere)

Current fees and charges

Cabinet Member(s)	Ward(s) affected: All
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The setting of the fees and charges for the next financial year forms part of the annual budget setting process. The reasons for presenting them for approval ahead of the detailed budget report are that it provides enough time to make the changes for those services that need to issue letters or invoices to service users before the beginning of the new financial year 2023/24 and to ensure there is adequate time for income budgets to be updated and included in the new financial year's budget, along with including the impact in future years' projections.

2. Fees and Charges 2023/24

- 2.1 Fees and charges proposals for 2023/24 have been circulated by the finance team and reviewed by the relevant budget managers so that income budgets can be updated as part of the budget process. The proposal is to increase fees and charges by 5% (rounded to the nearest 50p or £1) in line with inflationary cost pressures. Appendix A to this report provides the detail of the proposed charges for 2023/24 from 1 April 2023.
- 2.2 Approval of these charges in advance of the approval of the annual budget for 2023/24 gives services the time needed to action the changes and notify users in advance of 1 April 2023. Also it enables more accurate projections for income to be factored into the budget for 2023/24 which will be presented to Members in the New Year. Any further work in this area will be reported in the budget reports in February 2023.
- 2.3 The proposed increases in fees and charges are due to one of the following reasons:
- Inflationary increases which reflect the inflationary increases in costs which the Council is facing.
 - Increases in fees and charges which are set by central government, for example planning and premises licence fees.
 - Increases in fees which have to be set on a cost recovery basis for example Land Charges, Building Control and the majority of our locally set licence fees.

Significant changes to note:

- For Filming costs, these fees are charged on a case-by-case basis, these charges are dependent on the size of the filming request and applicant. In the event of a beneficial PR exposure these fees would be lowered/waived as the Council receives the benefit of this.
 - The HMO licence fee has increased significantly to bring it up to a comparable level of other local authorities. This is following a recent review by the Public Protection team where NNDC licence charges were compared with other Local Authorities licence charges which identified that the Council is undercharging for the service.
- 2.4 In addition, Council facilities operated by an external contractor will also be excluded as the Council has no discretion on the setting of these fees.
- 2.5 Some fees are not published in this report e.g. those relating to trade waste collection and garden bin fees. This is because some of our costs are not

known this early in the year and to ensure that the services operate in a financially effective manner, the setting of the associated fees is done separately under delegated powers once we are more certain of future costs.

- 2.6 Car parking charges are not covered in this report as they are subject to a separate report which will be presented to Members in due course.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The report makes recommendations for the fees and charges that will come into effect from 1st April 2023. These will inform the service income budgets that will be included within the detailed 2023/24 budget when it is presented for recommendation and approval in February 2023.

4. Financial Implications and Risks

- 4.1 The inflationary increases in fees and charges are required to meet the increases in costs that the Council is facing. Without these increases the Council will have to make savings in service delivery to meet the shortfall in the Council's budget for 2023/24 and future years.

- 4.2 For demand led services there is a risk that demand will fall, and the actual income received will fall short of the budgeted income. To mitigate this risk when producing income budgets assumptions will be made around the level of income to be achieved which will be based on best estimates calculated by service managers and the finance team working together.

5. **Sustainability** – none as a direct impact.

6. **Equality and Diversity** – none as a direct impact.

7. **Section 17 Crime and Disorder considerations** - none as a direct impact.