



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Council

25th January 2024

Report of Councillor Ashley Baxter
Deputy Leader of the Council

Fees and Charges Proposals 2024/25

Report Author

Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

 Richard.wyles@southkesteven.gov.uk

Purpose of Report

To set out the proposed fees and charges to be introduced for the financial year 2024/25.

Recommendations

Council is asked to:

1. **Approve the following fees and charges proposals for the financial year 2024/25:**
 - a) **Green waste bin annual collection charges:**
 - increase of £2 on the first bin to £51
 - increase of £15 on all subsequent bins to £42
 - b) **Increase of discretionary fees and charges as set out in Table 2.**

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Growth and our economy Housing that meets the needs of all residents Healthy and strong communities Clean and sustainable environment High performing Council
Which wards are impacted?	All Wards

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 The financial implications of the proposals set out in the report are incorporated into the draft budget for 2024/25. Any changes to the proposed fees and charges as set out in the report will have an impact on the proposed Budget Framework which is scheduled to be presented to Council on 29th February 2024.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 Any legal implications associated with this report are referenced in the body of the report.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Assistant Director (Governance and Public Protection) and Monitoring Officer

2. Background

FEES AND CHARGES

- 2.1 Fees and charges are a key element of the Council funding which raise approximately £8m towards the costs of delivery for specific services. In order to ensure a consistent and transparent approach to fee setting, a fees and charges policy has been approved by Council. The policy introduces a set of principles which have been applied to fees and charges setting.
- 2.2 The Council provides a wide range of services for which it is able to make a charge – either under statutory powers (set by the Government) or discretionary (set by the Council). Further definitions of the two main categories of charge are detailed below:
- **Regulatory** – the majority of charges are set nationally and local authorities have little or no opportunity to control them. The income received from these charges is important as it contributes to the overall financial position of the Authority. However, income cannot be assumed to increase in line with other fees and charges set by the Council.
 - **Discretionary Charges** – By definition, these are charges for which local authorities can make independent decisions about tariffs. When setting these fees and charges, the Council’s approach should be clear and in line with the corporate priorities.

Green Waste Annual Collection Charges

- 2.3 The Council provides a discretionary green waste garden collection service. The current charges and proposed increased charges to take effect from 1 April are shown in Table 1:

Table 1 – Green Waste Charges

Description of Charge	2023/23 Charge	2024/25 Proposed Charge from 1 April 2024
Delivery of Green Bin (or bins to same address)	£10	£12
Provision of Green Bin (all new or additional bins)	£26	£28
Annual Collection Charge (first bin)	£49	£51
Annual Collection Charge (each subsequent bin)	£27	£42

This is in response to ongoing service cost increases relating to vehicle, operational and staffing costs in providing this discretionary service. However the charge still remains low when compared to neighbouring authorities.

The majority of the discretionary fee increases are in line with the directly related costs associated with delivering the service and therefore increases have been applied as shown in the table below. However it is noted that there is no proposed increase to the market service in order to encourage trader numbers to increase particularly at Grantham and Bourne.

Table 2 – All Other Fees and Charges

QUADRANT (as per the Policy)	HEADING	PROPOSAL FOR 2024/25	INCORPORATION OF POLICY PRINCIPLES
Discretionary	Arts centres	5% (rounded up to £1)	Subsidised
	Bus stations	3% (rounded up to 10p)	Subsidised
	Markets	0%	Subsidised
	Outdoor recreation	Up to 10%	Subsidised
	Planning, pre-planning and street naming and numbering charges set locally	Up to 11%	Cost Recovery
	Provision of new or replacement bins	8%	Cost Recovery
	Bingo premises, betting premises etc	Up to 7%	Cost Recovery
	Building Control charges	Up to 14%	Cost Recovery
	Cemetery charges	6.7%	Cost Recovery
	Fees for scrap metal dealers, tattooing, acupuncture, control of dogs, caravan parks etc	Cost recovery analysis undertaken	Cost Recovery
	Hackney Carriage, Animal licenses and sex establishments etc	Cost recovery analysis undertaken	Cost Recovery
	Houses of Multiple occupancy, Immigration inspections, contaminated land enquiries & Sampling of water supplies	Cost recovery analysis undertaken	Cost Recovery
	Planning fees set by Government (from 6 December 2023)	25-30%	Cost Recovery
Specialism	Community rooms & guest rooms	6.7%	Cost Recovery
	Domestic refuse collection e.g. bulky waste	Up to 23%	Cost Recovery
	Hygiene food safety, packs and energy efficiency standards	Cost recovery analysis undertaken	Cost Recovery

Details of the proposed fees and charges for 2024/25 are shown in Appendix A.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1 Fees and charges are an integral part of the budget setting process and are reviewed on an annual basis.

4. Appendices

- 4.1 Appendix A – Fees and Charges