



Thursday, 16 January 2025

Report of Councillor Ashley Baxter
Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member
for Finance, HR and Economic
Development

Fees and Charges Proposals 2025/26

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

To set out the Fees and Charges to be introduced for the financial year 2025/26.

Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council the Fees and Charges for 2025/26.

- **Green waste bin annual collection charges:**
 - increase of £2 on the first bin to £53
 - increase of £2 on all subsequent bins to £44.
- **Bulky Waste – no increase proposed**
- **Bus Stations departure charges – no increase proposed**
- **Markets – no increase proposed**
- **All other discretionary charges to be increased in line with inflation.**

Decision Information

Is this a Key Decision? No

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication? No

What are the relevant corporate priorities? All

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 2025/26. 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 27th February 2025.

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 to the Report

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 principles and criteria set out in the Policy have been applied to fees and charges setting. The Policy will be reviewed during 2025 and is an approved recommendation from a recent internal audit review.
- 2.2 The Council provides a wide range of services for which can 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.

Street Scene Charges

2.3. Proposals for green waste collection charges were considered by the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 December 2024. The Committee recognised the value of the service to the residents but was also mindful of the increasing costs of delivering the service. Whilst a £1 increase was considered, the Committee recommended an increase of £2 in respect of the collection charge for 2025/26. The Committee did not support a suggested increase to the bulky waste service collection charges for 2025/26 because it wanted to ensure the service remained accessible to residents who wish to dispose of larger items. The current and proposed increased charges to take effect from 1 April 2025

2.4. The current charges and proposed increased charges to take effect from 1 April are shown in the table below:

Table 1 – Proposed Bulky Waste and Green Waste Charges

	2024/25 Current	2025/26 Proposed
Bulk household items - first item	£21	£21
- each additional item	£11	£11
Provision of Green Bin (all new or additional bins)	£28	£29
Annual Collection Charge (first bin)	£51	£53
Annual Collection Charge (each subsequent bin)	£42	£44

2.5. 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 Table 2 below.

2.6. In order to encourage the success of street markets across the district, there is no proposed increase to the fees for market traders.

2.7. There is no proposed increase to bus station departure charges for 2025/26 in order to encourage bus operators to use the facilities.

Table 2 – All Other Fees and Charges

HEADING	PROPOSAL FOR 2025/26	INCORPORATION OF POLICY PRINCIPLES
Arts centres	Changes to charges based on competitive pricing against other alternative local options	Subsidised
Bus stations	2%	Subsidised
Car parking charges	Car Parking fees & charges changes approved by Cabinet on 24 September 2024.	Cost Recovery and investment in traffic management related assets
Green waste	£2 increase for first bin (from £51 to £53) and £2 increase for all subsequent bins (from £42 to £44)	Cost Recovery
Markets	0%	Subsidised
Outdoor recreation	Up to 2% – Only Wyndham Park Visitor Centre services still offered by SKDC.	Subsidised
Planning, pre-planning and street naming and numbering charges set locally	Up to 2% and new charges proposed for street naming and numbering	Cost Recovery
Supply of new or replacement bins	0%	Cost Recovery
Community rooms & guest rooms	Up 3%	Cost Recovery
Domestic refuse collection e.g. bulky waste	0%	Cost Recovery
Hygiene food safety, packs and energy efficiency standards	Full cost recovery analysis undertaken	Cost Recovery

2.8. Details of the proposed fees and charges for 2025/26 are shown in Appendix A.

3. Key Considerations

3.1. The key considerations are outlined within section 2 of the report.

4. Other Options Considered

4.1 The alternative options are considered as part of the report in section 2.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

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

6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix A – Fees and Charges