

Income from Fees and Charges

1. The Council adopted its current corporate charging policy in October 2002, following a review by the Best Value Committee. The Policy was designed to ensure that:
 - Charges are levied on a clear and consistent basis across the Council's services;
 - The level of charges is both consistent and fair, and takes proper account of the ability of customers to afford the service; and
 - Charges are imposed and implemented in line with the law, and with the Council's agreed priorities and objectives.
2. Under the Council's Policy, the Council will:
 - Make charges wherever it is lawful to do so;
 - Set charges to recover the full cost of the service wherever it has discretion over the level of charges, except where the service provides a social benefit, is of a commercial nature (where charges should be set to maximise income), or where the charge is designed to achieve a particular outcome; and
 - Offer concessions on a fair and consistent basis for the services providing a social benefit, or where the charge is set to achieve a particular outcome.
3. The proposed and current charges are set out in detail in Annex 4(b). Changes are shown by grey shading. The table below outlines the expected level of income in 2012/13 from fees and charges by service. 2012/13 income is compared to the equivalent levels of income in 2011/12.
4. It should be noted that the change in level of income arises from a combination of increases in the volume of payments made, additional income from new charges as well as increases in the charges themselves.

Director	Service	2011/12 £000	2012/13 £000	Change £000
CE&F	1. Children, Education and Families	2,876	2,847	-29
	2. Music service	1,207	1,225	18
SCS	3. Library service	729	658	-71
	4. Heritage services	25	29	4
	5. <i>Adult social care (see note below)</i>	23,854	22,418	-1,436
	6. Fire & Rescue	16	12	-4
	7. Trading Standards	103	97	-6
	8. Gypsy & Traveller service	451	465	14
E&E	9. Highways & Transport	6,785	6,914	129
	10. Sustainable development	299	272	-27
	11. Property Asset Management & Directors office	483	490	7
	12. Adult learning	769	720	-49
	13. Customer services	246	209	-37
CEO	14. Registration	1,212	1,235	23
	15. Chief Executive's	141	261	120
	TOTAL (see note below)	39,196	37,852	-1,344

5. The reduction in income for Adult social care is misleading. Income which was included in 2011/12 has been reclassified as income to the Independent living fund in 2012/13. The Independent living fund is not included in this review. Similarly, the total also gives a misleading impression.
6. Comments on the individual services are as follows:
 1. **Children, Education & Families** – The charges at Hill End have been reviewed and a new charging structure is proposed. Charges for home to school and college transport remain the same.
 2. **Music service** – Charges have generally been increased. Charges for group tuition have been reviewed and in some cases increases are introduced in two steps.
 3. **Libraries** – Libraries have a very wide range of fees and charges. Also a complex set of concessions which are set out in Annex 4(c)
 4. **Heritage services** – Various new charges are proposed. These seem likely to lead to relatively small increases in income which are difficult to estimate at this stage. Existing charges for digital images have been reduced as technology has made the work easier. A range of new charges are introduced.
 5. **Adult social care** – As noted above, Income under the heading 'OCC Contribution to Learning Disabilities Pool' (at the end of the Adult social care section) has been reclassified in 2012/13. This income is now counted as income to the Independent living fund.

Three charges for services provided to clients who do not meet the Fair Access to Care criteria of “Critical / Substantial” are subject to consultation before Cabinet approval is requested:

- Day care for Older people (current charge £10 per day)
- Transport to Day Centres
- Laundry service

6. **Fire & Rescue** – There have been various small increases, keeping the resulting charges to whole pounds.
7. **Trading Standards** – Some fees (on the first and second page) are based on national guidance (Note 1) or set by statute (Note 2). These have not been set yet so no increase is shown at this stage.
8. **Gypsy & Traveller Service** – One site was undergoing refurbishment in 2011/12, so fees were reduced. They can be increased to the rate charged at other sites for 2012/13.
9. **Highways & Transport** – Proposed charges for long stay parking at Thornhill and Water Eaton park and ride sites will be considered by Cabinet in March following a period of consultation.
10. **Sustainable Development** – Increases are planned for the charges made by Countryside Services.
11. **Property Asset Management & Director’s Office** – No increases are planned. ‘Food with Thought’ propose to reduce the cost of a school meal to reflect the forecast surplus in 2011/12.
12. **Adult learning** – No increases are planned.
13. **Oxfordshire Customer Services** – A reduction in income from Fire prevention training is anticipated.
14. **Registration Services** – Most fees have been increased. Certificate fees – at the foot of the second page - are set by Statute and no increase has been notified.
15. **Chief Executive’s Office** – Charges for education appeals for Academies are being formalised, replacing existing contract by contract arrangements.