

Review of Fees and Charges 2017/18

1. Each year as part of the Service & Resource Planning process, charges are reviewed by service managers. As well as considering how charges compare to other authorities, there is an expectation that they are increased by at least inflation. For 2017/18, a target increase of 4% is assumed. The Income Generation Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG) has reviewed the charges proposed by managers and challenged those where the proposed increases for 2017/18 appeared to be too low.
2. Service managers were required to set out robust reasons if a 4% increase proposed cannot be implemented. Below is a summary of the main areas where charges are not increasing by the proposed 4%. Some charges are set by statutory requirements; other charges may have a separate review process as part of the contract management arrangements; or the County Council is undertaking a service review in that area and charging arrangements will be considered as part of this.

Children Education & Families: Early Intervention Hubs and Children's Centres are part of a restructure moving to new Children and Family Centres from March 2017. As part of this the buildings may be used in very different ways both from a business and property point of view. There is work underway to transfer the management of the properties to property business to oversee and manage any future rental lease agreements and charges.

Adult Social Care: clients receiving residential and non-residential services are subject to charging under the Care Act 2014. Money Management fees for Court of Protection are set by the Ministry of Justice.

Strategy & Infrastructure: some of the planning application charges are statutory fees set nationally.

Commercial Services: Disposal of large scale waste is subject to a new contract in October 2017 and charges will be reviewed as part of the contract process.

Network & Asset Management: fixed penalty notice charges are set by the New Roads and Street Works Act. The review of charges for on street parking will be undertaken after the installation of new payment machines. Residents parking permits are subject to a separate agreement where they are reviewed every three years and the increase is linked to RPI. Parking penalty charge notices are governed by legislation.

Customer Service Centre: the administration charge for disabled parking is a discretionary charge but when charged, local authorities are only allowed to charge £10 per blue badge.

Music Services: individual tuition fees have increased by 2.2% to remain competitive within the market.

Registration Service: the charges for 2017/18 were approved by Cabinet in October 2016 as income is collected far in advance of ceremonies taking place. They are included here for information only. The government is reviewing licencing fees nationally as part of a 'reducing burdens to businesses' Oxfordshire is already

one of the most expensive (therefore this hasn't been increased), however, the increase on the majority of other charges is higher than 4%.

3. The Council's corporate charging policy was agreed by Cabinet in September 2014. The proposed charges for 2017/18 are in line with this policy. The proposed and current charges are set out in detail in Annex 1b. The proposed charges are shown by grey shading.