

Review of Fees and Charges 2018/19

1. Each year as part of the Service & Resource Planning process, charges are reviewed by service managers. For 2018/19, a target increase of 2% was assumed in the Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 – 2020/21, agreed by Council in February 2017. As well as considering how charges compare to other authorities, there is an expectation that they are increased by at least inflation given that the September 2017 CPI rate was 3.0% and RPI rate was 3.9%.
2. Service managers were required to set out robust reasons if an increase cannot be implemented. Below is a summary of the main areas where charges are not increasing. Some charges are set by statutory requirements; other charges may have a separate review process as part of 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.

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.

Place and Planning: some of the planning application charges are statutory fees set nationally.

Infrastructure Delivery: 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.

Trading Standards: the majority of charges are statutory but where possible other charges have been increased above 2%.

Library Service: a review of the charges has taken place in comparison with other local authorities the majority of charges have been increased above 2%.

Registration Service: 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 2%.

3. The Council's corporate charging policy was agreed by Cabinet in September 2014. The proposed charges for 2018/19 are in line with this policy. The proposed and current charges are set out in detail in Annex 2b. The proposed charges are shown by grey shading.