

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 income; 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 2011/12 from fees and charges by service and compares it to the equivalent levels of income in 2010/11.
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.

Service	2010/11 £000	2011/12 £000	Change £000	Net meeting pressures £000
Children, Young People & Families	2,702	2,850	148	107
Library service	701	729	28	17
Heritage services	25	25	0	0
Music services	1,255	1,207	-48	-67
Adult social care	21,939	23,856	1,917	1,588
Fire & Rescue	16	16	0	0
Trading Standards	103	103	0	-2
Gypsy & Traveller service	444	451	7	0
Highways & Transport	6,219	7,307	1,088	995
Sustainable development	227	299	72	69
Property Asset Management & Directors office	513	483	-30	0
Customer services	3,794	3,842	48	-9
Adult learning	831	769	-62	-74
Chief Executive's	175	141	-34	-37
Registration	1,175	1,212	38	21
TOTAL	40,119	43,290	3,172	2,608

5. Thus overall income from fees and charges is planned to increase by from £40.119m to £43.290m – by £3.172m, or 7.9%. In cash terms, most of the increase is from Adult Social Care and Highways & Transport. The largest percentage increase is for 'Sustainable development', which plans a 32% increase.
6. The final column shows the extent to which the increase in fees and charges is more than the allowed inflation of 1.5%. Where there are increases, these can be used to offset pressures to spend on the service. Thus Children, Education and Families plan to increase income from fees and charges by £107k more than the allowed rate of inflation. Some other services have not used this facility and have negative values in the final column.
7. Some explanations and notes about the individual services follow:

1. Children, Young People & Families

Recoupment is recovering the costs of pupils educated in Oxfordshire who are funded by other authorities. Charges vary depending on the level of service needed.

2. Libraries

Some increases in overdue charges and reservation fees are planned.

3. Heritage services

Increases are planned for exhibitions, staff support, research enquiries, administration, lectures and for using the Museum garden for wedding photography.

4. Music service

Fees generally are increasing by more than the assumed rate of inflation (1.5%).

5. Adult social care

Increases are planned for domiciliary care. Income is expected to increase for Supported living and Adult placements..

6. Fire and Rescue

Charges are made for use of personnel and vehicles, reporting on fires and for dial in alarm facilities. Modest increases across the board are planned.

7. Trading Standards

A very wide range of charges are made, for poisons licences, performing animals, storing petroleum and explosives, testing weights and measures, to hire a cattle crush and to join the 'By with Confidence' scheme. There are small increases, typically 1.5%, in many cases.

8. Gypsy and Travellers

These are rents for plots on our sites. Modest increases of 1.6% are planned.

9. Highways & Transport

Fees cover a wide range of activities involving streets, roads and transport. Large increases are planned for some of the more unusual charges, for example connecting to a public foul sewer, for film crews that include 30 or more people and for 'Table and chairs' licences.

Fees are planned for the Park & Ride car parks.

10. Sustainable development, Waste management and Countryside

Modest increases are planned. There is a new charge for providing copies of the register of Commons.

11. Property Asset Management and Directors office

This includes rents for various property and sales of prints and plans.

12. Oxfordshire Customer Services

This now includes the Translation Services and Adult Learning (on separate pages) both of which are expected to transfer from S&CS.

13. Adult learning

No increases are planned.

14. Chief Executive's Office

This includes charges for legal services. Publication of the Council magazine has ended.

15. Registration Services

Fees are being increased above the rate of inflation (0.5%) apart from those set by the government and fees for certificates.

Library Service Concessions

7. Concessions offered by the Library service are complex. They are summarised by the matrix shown in Annex 4(c).

VAT rate changes

8. On 22 June 2010 the Chancellor announced that the standard VAT rate would be increased from 17.5% to 20% on 4 January 2011. Fees and charges in the last quarter of 2010/11 were not adjusted to allow for this increase. However, slight adjustments have been made, where appropriate, in these proposed new fees and charges for 2011/12.