

TITLE	Fees and Charges
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	The Executive on 24 November 2016
WARD	None specific
DIRECTOR	Graham Ebers, Director Corporate Services
LEAD MEMBER	Anthony Pollock, Executive Member for Economic Development and Finance

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Sound Finances and Value for Money.
Maintaining services to the community through ensuring appropriate fees and charges for services.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive approve the schedule of fees and charges, as set out in Appendix A to the report, to be effective from the dates listed on the schedule.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Members are presented with the schedule of proposed fees and charges.

Members are requested to agree the fees and charges contained in this report at Appendix A, effective from the dates shown on the schedule, of which most are enacted from 1 December 2016. Health and Wellbeing – Sports and Health and Wellbeing – Housing charges will alter from 1 January 2017 and 1 April 2017 respectively.

Background

The Council is currently projecting an in year budgetary pressure and forecasting an overspend. Implementation of the new fees and charges during the financial year will help the Council to offset this challenge and is considered to be responsible. Executive are asked to approve the schedule of fees and charges (Appendix A). The estimated income from the approved level of fees and charges will form part of the overall 2017/18 budget figures to be submitted to Executive in February 2017.

Those fees and charges which are subject to annual inflationary increases have in general been increased by an average 1.9% (and rounded where appropriate) in line with the Retail Price Index (RPI) as at July 2016. Some fees and charges, largely in Health and Wellbeing, vary according to the cost of providing the service.

Analysis of Issues

The report contains proposed charges for services as set out in Appendix A.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	(£10k)	Y	R
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	(£30k)	Y	R
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	(£30k)	Y	R

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

The approved fees and charges income will be included in the MTFP to be submitted to Executive in February 2017.

Cross-Council Implications

The fees and charges schedule affects all service areas which provide chargeable services.

List of Background Papers

None

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Date 14 November 2016	Version No. 2