

# Agenda Item 66.

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Fees and Charges</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	The Executive on 30 November 2017
<b>WARD</b>	None specific
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Graham Ebers, Director of Corporate Services
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>	Oliver Whittle, Executive Member for 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 2017. People's Services – Sports and Housing charges will alter from 1 January 2018 and 1 April 2018 respectively.

## Background

The Council is currently projecting significant financial pressure both in the current and future financial years. 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 2018/19 budget figures to be submitted to Executive in February 2018.

Those fees and charges which are subject to annual inflationary increases.

## Analysis of Issues

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

Annual inflationary increases have in general been increased by an average 3.6% (and rounded where appropriate) in line with the Retail Price Index (RPI) as at July 2017. Some fees and charges, largely in People's services, vary according to the cost of providing the service.

Most changes are enacted from 1 December 2017. However, People's services – Sports and Housing charges will alter from 1 January 2018 and 1 April 2018 respectively. This is in line with business requirements.

The only other variance from these principles is the charges for deputyship and appointeeship where charges have been restructured to ensure fairness and consistency, and also to achieve an income to the local authority for carrying out relevant services. Benchmarking and further detail is given in Appendix B.

## 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	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	(£60k)	Y	Revenue
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	(£60k)	Y	Revenue

### **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 2018.

<b>Cross-Council Implications</b>
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The fees and charges schedule affects all service areas which provide chargeable services.
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<b>List of Background Papers</b>
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None
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