

TITLE	Fees and Charges
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	The Executive on Thursday, 29 November 2018
WARD	None Specific;
DIRECTOR	Director of Corporate Services - Graham Ebers
LEAD MEMBER	Executive Member for Finance and Corporate Resources - Vacancy

PURPOSE OF REPORT (INC STRATEGIC OUTCOMES)

Maintaining services to the community through ensuring appropriate fees and charges for services.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive approve:

- 1) 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.
- 2) Wokingham's discretionary fees and charges for the Public Protection Partnership, and note the statutory charges, as set out in Appendix B, effective from 1 April 2019.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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 2018. Sports, cemeteries, housing and youth and community charges will alter from 1 January 2019 (sports) and 1 April 2019 respectively.

Members are also requested to agree the fees and charges for the Wokingham element of the Public Protection Partnership Service, altering from 1 April 2019, and note the statutory charges for this area.

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 2019/20 budget figures to be submitted to Executive in February 2019.

Members are also requested to agree the fees and charges for the Wokingham element of the public protection partnership service, altering from 1 April 2019, and note the statutory charges for this area.

BUSINESS CASE (Including Options and Evidence of Need)

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

Annual inflationary increases have in general been increased by an average 3.2% (and rounded where appropriate) in line with the Retail Price Index (RPI) as at July 2018. Some fees and charges, largely in Adults Social Services, vary according to the cost of providing the service.

Most changes are enacted from 1 December 2018. However, sports, cemeteries, housing and youth and community charges will alter from 1 January 2019 (sports) and 1 April 2019 respectively. This is in line with business requirements.

The Public Protection Partnership is currently unifying the charges across the three authorities engaged in the partnership. The Wokingham charges will increase by an average of 2.5% from 1 April 2019.

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

Other Financial Information

The approved fees and charges income will be included in the MTFP to be submitted to Executive in February 2019.

Stakeholder Considerations and Consultation
All relevant services were contacted to review their fees and charges

Resourcing and Timeline for Next Steps
Fees and charges changes will come into effect on the dates outlined in the report

Timeline for Review and Evaluation
A review of fees and charges takes place annually

List of Background Papers
None

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