



## REPORT of DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

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to  
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
20 NOVEMBER 2025

### FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE 2026 / 27

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To review the proposed 2026/27 fees and charges set at the discretion of the Council that are forecast to generate greater than £2,000 each.
- 1.2 To note that Fees and Charges which are anticipated to generate less than £2,000 in total are reviewed and set by the Director of Finance under delegated powers.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATION

To the Council:

That the detailed Fees and Charges Schedule for 2026 / 27 as set out in **APPENDIX A** be agreed subject to Council approval of the Fees and Charges Policy.

#### 3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The proposed fees and charges for 2026 / 27 are set out in **APPENDIX A** and are based on the Fees and Charges Policy report agreed by this Committee on 2 October 2025; and is awaiting approval by the Council in December.
- 3.2 To assist in identifying and understand the proposed changes, a summary of these is set out at **APPENDIX B**.
- 3.3 The majority of Fees and Charges are proposed to be increased by inflation (set at 3.8% based on the Consumer Price Index as of September 2025).
- 3.4 The following fees have been reduced for 2026/27. Gambling fees: these have been reduced to reflect the statutory maximum chargeable. Cemetery plot choosing fees have been reduced to come in line with other local authority's charges.
- 3.5 Some charges have remained the same, these cover areas such as Anti-social behaviour and Environmental protection charges.
- 3.6 The following charges recommended for an above inflation increase are as follows:
- 3.7 Planning fees for Compliance with condition requests, planning history requests, withdrawing historic enforcement notices and Pre-App sale meeting for listed buildings have been increased above inflation to bring in line with the enforcement notices.

- 3.8 Planning fees for Minor tree advice (tree within a conservation area only) have increased above inflation to match the Tree Preservation Order (TPO) minor tree advice charge.
- 3.9 Events licence fee and street closure applications have increased above inflation, this is due to no increase in charges over previous years.
- 3.10 A new charge has been introduced for Planning Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) monitoring fees. The fees are for the monitoring of BNG in planning applications and off site BNG sites to ensure that BNG is delivered as approved.
- 3.11 Some fees are proposed to be deleted, these are the Annual fee for recycling for Isolated properties and the Cemetery fee for Saturday service for Ashes.
- 3.12 The proposals for Car Parking charges were taken to Car Parking task and finish group. The group proposed that changes remain the same for 2026/27.

#### 4. IMPACT ON BUDGETS

- 4.1 The income estimated to be generated from these fees and charges is detailed in the table below:

Service Area	2025 / 26 Budget £'000	2025 / 26 Forecast £'000	2025 / 26 Variance £'000	Budgeted Income 2026/27
Off-street Parking (including Prom Car Park)	1,564	1,680	116	1,635
Waste Management	1,059	1,080	21	1,095
Development Control	907	957	50	941
Building Control	182	132	(50)	135
Cemeteries	175	174	(1)	181
Maldon Promenade	125	125	0	130
Land Charges	78	88	10	81
Public Entertainment Licences	72	71	0	74
Parks External works	66	66	0	66
Rivers	46	46	0	47
Hackney Carriages	32	20	(12)	23
Other	42	38	(4)	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,348</b>	<b>4,477</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>4,451</b>

- 4.2 The table shows an over achievement of income from fees and charges of £129k expected in 2025 / 26. This is mainly due to increase in car park income 116k (including the prom), Development control 50k Waste management 21k and Land charges 10k. The increases are offset by the reduction in volume of Building Control applications £50k and the reduction in Hackney Carriage applications £12k. Raising fees and charges by the amounts set out at **APPENDIX A** is forecast to generate an

additional £103k income compared to 2025 / 26 budgets if volumes remain the same as this year.

- 4.3 The proposed schedule of 2026/27 Discretionary Fees and Charges has been updated in accordance with the Policy agreed by the Committee in October 2025, which aims to ensure cost recovery on all discretionary services where feasible.

## **5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2023 - 2027**

### **5.1 Smarter finances**

- 5.1.1 Discretionary Fees and Charges are an important element of the overall of funding available to the Council to deliver its services.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – This has been considered when setting fees and charges policy. As a general principle discretionary fees and charges should be set to fully recover their costs, to minimise the impact on local council taxpayers in respect of subsidising these services.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None identified.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including Fraud implications)** – The actual income generated from fees and charges is subject to fluctuation due to changes in demand. This risk is managed by factoring potential losses in the calculation of the minimum general fund balance used in the budget setting process.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Fees and charges are one of the three major sources of funding for the Council; the other two being Council Tax and retained Business Rates. The impact of the changes to fees and charges are being incorporated into the 2026 / 27 budget proposals.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None identified.
- (vi) **Impact on Devolution / Local Government Reorganisation** – None.

Background Papers: 2026 / 27 Fees and Charges Policies Report to the Strategy and Resources Committee, 2 October 2025

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