

Cabinet



Date of meeting: 13 January 2025
Title of Report: **Annual Fees and Charges Uplift**
Lead Member: Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader)
Lead Strategic Director: David Northey (Service Director for Finance)
Author: Joanne Hambly
Contact Email: Joanne.hambly@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:
Key Decision: No
Confidentiality: Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To agree the annual uplift of discretionary fees and charges for 1 April 2025 (as set out in the report).

Recommendations and Reasons

Cabinet are asked to:

- 1) Agree the uplift of discretionary fees and charges by at least 5% + rounding, from 1 April 2025.

The Fees and Charges Policy states that each financial year charges will generally be increased by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This will ensure charges keep pace with the cost of providing services. This year the recommended increase is 5% + rounding where appropriate. Departments can however choose to increase fees on the basis of cost recovery and benchmarking as an alternative approach where this is more appropriate.

Alternative options considered and rejected

1. Not increase fees and charges.

The proposals have been considered fully by officers in light of benchmarking (where relevant) and the need to achieve cost recovery. They are proposed at the level considered appropriate in light of this and the substantial shortfall in resources needed to set a balanced budget for 2025/26. The option of setting no increase has been rejected on the basis it would not achieve cost recovery, and/or may affect the viability of services.

2. Increase fees at a lower rate

In light of the current Council budget position a lower rate will not enable costs of service provision to be covered. This would require alternative savings to be developed.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The report is fundamentally linked to delivering the priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan. Allocating limited resources to key priorities will maximise the benefits to the residents of Plymouth, and links directly to 'providing quality public services', and 'spending money wisely'.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Robust and accurate financial monitoring underpins the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The Council's MTFP is updated based upon on-going monitoring information, both on a local and national context. Any adverse variations from the annual budget will place pressure on the MTFP going forward and require additional savings to be generated in future years.

Financial Risks

In relation to increases in charges there is some risk that proposed increases will impact demand for some services with a knock-on impact on income. As such the impact of the increases, if approved, will be monitored and amendments sought as necessary.

It is expected that this decision will generate a maximum amount of additional income of £350k.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

An increase in bulky waste – potentially a minimal risk of an increase in fly tipping due to increased charges for bulky waste collection

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

No expected impact.

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing report "Fees and Charges Uplift – April 2025"							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Equality Impact Assessments							

Sign off:

Fin	OW. 24.25. 008	Leg	LS/00 0013 12/1/ AC/1 0/1/2 5	Mon Off		HR		Asset s		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: David Northey											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 08/01/2025											
Cabinet Member approval Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader)											
Date approved: 09/01/2025											