

# Fees and Charges Uplift – April 2025



## 1. Background

- 1.1 The Council has a range of Fees and Charges for discretionary and statutory services it provides. The Fees, Charges and Concessions Policy 2016 states that each financial year discretionary fees and charges will generally be increased by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The policy states that all fees and charges should recover costs. When the cost of providing services increases it is important that fees and charges also increase to keep pace with those rising costs. The current budget position at the Council means that these cost increases cannot be absorbed. Implementing increases each year will avoid lengthy periods of no review and any subsequent need for sudden increases.
- 1.2 Failure to implement full cost recovery increases in discretionary fees and charges will require alternative savings to be developed and agreed by the Council.

## 2. Proposal

- 2.1 This proposal is to set the fees at the right amount going forwards into 2025/26.
- 2.2 It is proposed that discretionary fees and charges are generally increased by at least 5% + rounding, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. This will ensure that all discretionary fees and charges remain inline with the annual uplift.
- 2.3 The proposals have been fully considered by officers taking into account benchmarking (where relevant) and the need to achieve cost recovery. Setting no increase is rejected on the basis it would not achieve cost recovery and/or may affect the level of income achieved from services.
- 2.4 Equality Impact Assessments for fees and charges which are above 5% + rounding have been undertaken.
- 2.5 Where appropriate the Council may determine not to recover the full cost of some services due to social impact or other policy reasons as a result there are a few fees and charges where it is proposed not to increase by at least 5%.

## 3. Context

- 3.1 PCC has seen a significant impact from inflation and rising costs, and fees need to be increased to ensure cost recovery where possible.

## 4. Reasons for change

- 4.1 The increase in discretionary fees and charges will achieve the following:
  - Cover the rising cost of providing services;
  - Ensure a consistent approach across the Council;
  - Ensure that fees and charges that have not been uplifted in years are reviewed and subsequently increased if appropriate.

## **5. Next Steps**

- 5.1 Following approval, services will raise their fees on or after the 1 April 2025, giving reasonable notice to service users. For any existing bookings made for ceremonies and hire of assets after 1 April 2025, where a booking has been confirmed and a deposit paid, previously quoted prices will be honoured.
- 5.2 A list of the revised fees and charges will be available on the Council website.