

Plymouth City Council

Corporate Charging Policy

November 2016



This policy is Plymouth City Council's approach to setting fees and charges and allowing concessions. It sets out the principles that the Council will use when setting a charge for services. It ensures consistency in charging customers and community groups.

The City Council is committed to the highest possible standards of openness and accountability. This policy is driven by those values. Fees and charges will be pitched to deliver the Council's overall objectives whilst protecting the most vulnerable citizens of Plymouth.

1. In scope

All discretionary fees and charges.

2. Key Principles

There will be a charging policy in each Portfolio area. Where appropriate the Council may determine not to recover the full cost of some services because of the social impact or other policy reasons including the safeguarding of tourism revenues.

- 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.
- Increases will be implemented in practical monetary values that make sense to customers. The CPI increase may be applied differently across a group of similar services in order to achieve this.
- The Council will ensure the full cost of a service is recovered where that is the charging objective. Commercial services will be priced to generate a surplus. Where commercial services are not achieving that aim they will be reviewed, including the potential to improve the market offer.
- Non-residents may be charged differentially where appropriate.
- Charging decisions will be informed by intelligence from other local authorities and providers.
- Where relevant charging decisions will be supported an equalities impact assessment

3. Concessions

Concessions may be offered

- To those in full time education
- In receipt of means-tested benefits
- In receipt of the State Pension
- Group discounts may apply where this is consistent with the service charging policy
- Service users should make a minimum contribution in accordance with the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme.

4. Authority to set fees and charges

- Fees and Charges may be revised at any stage of the financial year.
- If the expected increase for a service area is less than £500k a year may be set by the Portfolio Holder.
- If the expected increase for a service area is more than £500k a year shall be set by the Cabinet.