

Delegated Decision

25 June 2024

Update - Annual Review of Fees, Charges and Allowances 2024-25



Report of Rob Davisworth, Head of Corporate Finance and Commercial Services

Councillor Ted Henderson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Young Peoples Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To set out details of the proposed fees and charges for 2024/25.

Executive summary

- 2 Fees and charges should be reviewed at least annually and adjusted where appropriate.
- 3 Increases in fees and charges are necessary to take into account current and future pressures on budgets and the need to achieve MTFP savings through maximising service income as well as reducing expenditure. However, the difficult economic climate means that careful consideration must be given to increasing prices in all discretionary fee generating areas.

Recommendation(s)

- 4 It is recommended that:
 - (a) The revised fees as detailed in the report are implemented for the financial year 2024/25. If approved a delegated decision record will be signed by the Corporate Director.
 - (b) The Corporate Director and Heads of Service will have delegated discretionary powers to vary these charges as deemed appropriate to maximise income generation, in consultation with

the relevant Portfolio Holders. This will need a delegated decision to be recorded.

Background

- 5 The Constitution provides delegated powers to each Corporate Director, in consultation with their respective Portfolio Holders, to introduce, review or amend fees and charges.
- 6 Fees and charges should be reviewed at least annually and adjusted where appropriate. Increases in fees and charges are necessary to take into account current and future pressures on budgets and the need to achieve MTFP savings through maximising service income as well as reducing expenditure. However, the difficult economic climate means that careful consideration must be given to increasing prices in all discretionary fee generating areas.

Income Maintenance

- 7 Eligible and relevant young people 16-18 years old are not entitled to claim benefits, therefore as the corporate parent the County Council has a duty to financially support these young people if they have no other income. The support package for their subsistence and accommodation will match the support that they would be entitled to if they were in receipt of benefits. CYPs pays subsistence in the form of Income Maintenance.
- 8 At the point fees and charges were set for the 2024/25 financial year, the benefit information had not been published, so a notional increase of **2%** was applied.
- 9 The allowance has now been confirmed by Welfare Rights as £71.70 per week, an increase of **6.7%** on the 2023/24 allowance.

Background papers

- Fees and Charges 2024/25 – Finance Clinic (November 2023)

Other useful documents

- None

Contact: Julie Parker

Tel: 03000 266414

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

N/A

Finance

All charges approved will be implemented for the 2024/25 financial year.

Consultation

N/A

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

N/A

Human Rights

N/A

Crime and Disorder

N/A

Staffing

N/A

Accommodation

N/A

Risk

N/A

Procurement

Appendix 2: Proposed Allowances for 2024/25

Proposed Children and Young Peoples Allowances 2024/25				
Type of Allowance	Current Allowance (£) 23/24	Proposed Allowance (£) 24/25	Increase/Decrease (£)	% Change
Leaving Care				
Income Maintenance	£67.20	£71.70	£4.50	6.7%