

North Somerset Council

Report to the Executive

Date of Meeting: 7 February 2024

Subject of Report: 2024/25 Fees and Charges

Town or Parish: All

Officer/Member Presenting: Mike Bell, Leader of the Council

Key Decision: YES

Reason: The proposed changes could affect communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the Local Authority, should they choose to use the services.

Recommendations

The executive is asked to approve:

- a) The changes to general fees and charges as detailed in appendix 1.
- b) The recommended proposed changes to existing on and off street parking fees and charges, as set out in section 3.2 and detailed in appendix 2. This will be treated as "Notice" and included in a variation of the current parking orders from 1st April 2024.

1. Summary of Report

In accordance with the Council's constitution, this report seeks approval for the following:

- 1) any proposed increases to fees and charges that are in excess of 10% or are estimated to generate additional annual revenue income of more than £300,000
- 2) proposed changes to car parking charges.

Changes to fees and charges outside these parameters are considered by individual Directors and Executive Members.

2. Policy

2.1 General fees & charges

Fees and charges represent an important source of income, providing funding to assist in achieving the Council's objectives. Some of our fees and charges are effectively set by legislation, but many are locally determined.

Income derived from charging is used to offset the costs of providing the service being charged for, including support service costs. In recommending an appropriate level of fees and charges, managers also consider their client groups and corporate objectives.

The Council's constitution requires that any proposed increase to fees and charges that are in excess of 10% or are estimated to generate additional annual revenue of more than £300,000 are to be determined by the Executive.

2.2 Parking fees & charges

The council's financial regulations state that any change to car parking charges shall be subject to approval by the Executive.

The process of reviewing the on and off street parking order, including a review of parking fees and charges is carried out according to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Traffic Management Act 2004.

3. Details

3.1 General fees & charges

Appendix 1 provides a detailed schedule of all proposed fees changes that fall within the approval limits of the Executive as detailed in section 2 above.

The basis for these changes include a range of themes, the main themes are as follows:

- Updated/new charges following benchmarking with other authorities
- Updated charges to cover increases in costs to ensure the Council is recovering costs where possible, this is particularly important due to the unprecedented level of national inflation and cost increases to the Council over the past two years

3.2 Parking fees & charges

3.2.1 North Somerset Council owns and / or manages over 60 public off-street car parks throughout North Somerset. There are 14 sites within the Off Street Parking Order which currently have charges for parking, encouraging either short stay, long stay or a mixture of those:

- Four off street short stay sites in Weston-Super-Mare.
- Three off street long stay sites in Weston-Super-Mare.
- Three off street sites with a mixture of short and long stay in Weston-Super-Mare.
- Two off street seasonal charge sites in Clevedon.
- Two railway station car parks in Worle and Nailsea and Backwell

Parking on Weston-super-Mare seafront is not part of the Off Street Parking Order but has seasonal charges.

There are currently two on street pay and display areas in North Somerset at Leigh Woods and central Weston-super-Mare.

3.2.2 Although there have been some minor changes to the charges over the past eight years, they have not been reviewed annually to take into account inflation therefore the charges for the above sites have all been reviewed. The review has taken into account the following:

- Inflation
- Benchmarking against other authorities
- Ensuring charging is consistent i.e. it costs the same to park on the Seafront all day as it does in the car parks

Appendix 2 provides a detailed schedule of the proposed changes to each site and tariff.

3.2.3 Alongside implementing these changes to existing parking charges, there is a separate Executive report being take to the Executive Committee on 7 February 2024 on the Parking management Strategy and Action Plan. This recommends commencing a consultation on the introduction of a short stay car park permit, this would be available to North Somerset residents to offer and alternative for regular users of car parks near retail centre.

4. Consultation

The changes are in accordance with the Council's policy guidance and principles and, as such, no consultation has been undertaken. The revised fees and charges will be published on the Council's website.

5. Financial Implications

The Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-2028 and the Revenue Budget for 2024/25 is being taken to the Executive Committee on the 7 February 2024. Included within this report there is general increase of 1.25% to income budgets in 2024/25 and in some areas, specific additional income targets have been included where the cost of providing the service is increasing by more than 1.25%.

The report also includes a proposed increase to the parking charges income budget of £504k in 2024/25. This increase is to recognise inflation on existing fees and charges as well as potentially implementing new opportunities. This report recommends changes to existing charges which represents £404k of the £504k proposed within the 2024/25 budget.

The fees set out in this report are designed to ensure that these budget targets are achievable.

6. Legal Powers and Implications

Trading and charging for services have been a feature of local government for a considerable time. Specific powers to charge for services are contained in a variety of local government statutes. The Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970, the Local Government Act 2003 and the Localism Act 2011 empower councils to charge for discretionary services on a cost recovery basis.

The process of reviewing the on and off street parking order is carried out according to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Traffic Management Act 2004.

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

No direct implications identified.

8. Risk Management

In some cases, increases in fees and charged can be a disincentive to the take up services. Service managers have taken this into consideration when reviewing charges and no material risks have been identified in this respect.

9. Equality Implications

The changes are in accordance with the Council's policy guidance and principles. A equalities impact assessment has been carried out as part of the MTFP and budget setting process for 2024/25.

10. Corporate Implications

None, other than those already identified.

11. Options Considered

A variety of options will have been considered by service managers and the proposals in this report are considered to be the most appropriate in line with council policy on matters to be considered when setting fees and charges. The key principles considered are included within the report approved by the Executive in February 2026 and linked below in the background papers.

Author:

Jo Jones, Finance Business Partner (Place), jo.jones@n-somerset.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Detailed Fees and Charges changes to be approved by the Executive
Appendix 2 Detailed Parking fees and charges

Background Papers:

Report to Executive 2 February 2016 – Fees and Charges Policy [Committee Report NSC \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Detailed Fees and Charges changes to be approved by the executive

APPENDIX 1

Fees & charges service	Fees & charges heading	Description	2023/24	2024/25	Increase / Decrease		Basis for change	Additional information
			existing	proposed	%	£		
Planning Fees	Planning decision notices	Copy of a decision note	£17.00	£19.00	11.76%	£2.00	Cost recovery / Benchmarking	To ensure cost recovery. The fee has been benchmarked with other authorities.
Planning Fees	Return of invalid applications	Return of invalid applications	£35.00	£39.00	11.43%	£4.00	Inflation / Cost Recovery	To ensure cost recovery.
Buses	Bus stops	Standard site visit	£75.00	£90.00	20.00%	£15.00	Inflation / Cost Recovery	Fee has not been reviewed since 2020, the increase is to bring the fee in line with inflation.
Buses	Bus stops	Bus stop closure	£150.00	£180.00	20.00%	£30.00	Inflation / Cost Recovery	Fee has not been reviewed since 2020, the increase is to bring the fee in line with inflation.
Buses	Bus stops	Additional site visit	£75.00	£90.00	20.00%	£15.00	Inflation / Cost Recovery	Fee has not been reviewed since 2020, the increase is to bring the fee in line with inflation.
Buses	Bus stops	Replacement bus service during road closures	£150.00	£180.00	20.00%	£30.00	Inflation / Cost Recovery	Fee has not been reviewed since 2020, the increase is to bring the fee in line with inflation.
Licences, registration and permits	One-off Events (Per Unit/Stall)	All areas	£62.00	£40.00	-35.48%	-£22.00	Change in fee structure	Amalgamation of tiered fees into one standard pitch fee.
Licences, registration and permits	One-off Events (Per Unit/Stall)	1-10 stalls per applicant - Day	£62.00	£0.00	-100.00%	-£62.00	Change in fee structure	Remove these tiers as replaced by one single amalgamated fee as above
Licences, registration and permits	One-off Events (Per Unit/Stall)	1-10 stalls per applicant - Week	£62.00	£0.00	-100.00%	-£62.00	Change in fee structure	Remove these tiers as replaced by one single amalgamated fee as above
Licences, registration and permits	One-off Events (Per Unit/Stall)	11-20 stalls per applicant - Day	£35.00	£0.00	-100.00%	-£35.00	Change in fee structure	Remove these tiers as replaced by one single amalgamated fee as above
Licences, registration and permits	One-off Events (Per Unit/Stall)	11-20 stalls per applicant - Week	£35.00	£0.00	-100.00%	-£35.00	Change in fee structure	Remove these tiers as replaced by one single amalgamated fee as above
Licences, registration and permits	One-off Events (Per Unit/Stall)	21+ stalls per applicant - Day	£25.00	£0.00	-100.00%	-£25.00	Change in fee structure	Remove these tiers as replaced by one single amalgamated fee as above
Licences, registration and permits	One-off Events (Per Unit/Stall)	21+ stalls per applicant - Week	£25.00	£0.00	-100.00%	-£25.00	Change in fee structure	Remove these tiers as replaced by one single amalgamated fee as above
Licences, registration and permits	Returning Events	The fees for one off events will apply but for regular and returning events (up to 52 events per year) fees are capped at an annual limit	£0.00	£1,200.00	NEW	£1,200.00	Change in fee structure	New capped fee introduced - not a new fee but a maximum payment level per annum
Licences, registration and permits	Farmers Markets, Craft Markets and Street fayres (per market/fayre)	1-10 Stalls - Quarter	£0.00	£150.00	NEW	£150.00	Change in fee structure	New capped fee introduced for returning and regular events
Licences, registration and permits	Farmers Markets, Craft Markets and Street fayres (per market/fayre)	1-10 Stalls - Annual (up to 15 events)	£0.00	£600.00	NEW	£600.00	Change in fee structure	New capped fee introduced for returning and regular events
Licences, registration and permits	Farmers Markets, Craft Markets and Street fayres (per market/fayre)	11-20 Stalls - Quarter	£0.00	£225.00	NEW	£225.00	Change in fee structure	New capped fee introduced for returning and regular events
Licences, registration and permits	Farmers Markets, Craft Markets and Street fayres (per market/fayre)	11-20 Stalls - Annual (up to 15 events)	£0.00	£900.00	NEW	£900.00	Change in fee structure	New capped fee introduced for returning and regular events
Licences, registration and permits	Farmers Markets, Craft Markets and Street fayres (per market/fayre)	21+ Stalls - Quarter	£0.00	£300.00	NEW	£300.00	Change in fee structure	New capped fee introduced for returning and regular events
Licences, registration and permits	Farmers Markets, Craft Markets and Street fayres (per market/fayre)	21+ Stalls - Annual (up to 15 events)	£0.00	£1,200.00	NEW	£1,200.00	Change in fee structure	New capped fee introduced for returning and regular events
Licences, registration and permits	Craft Markets/Street Fairs (per Market/Fair)	1-10 Stalls - Annual (2-15 events)	£0.00	£600.00	NEW	£600.00	Change in fee structure	New capped fee introduced for returning and regular events
Licences, registration and permits	Craft Markets/Street Fairs (per Market/Fair)	11-20 Stalls - Annual (2-15 events)	£0.00	£90.00	NEW	£90.00	Change in fee structure	New capped fee introduced for returning and regular events
Licences, registration and permits	Craft Markets/Street Fairs (per Market/Fair)	21+ Stalls - Annual (2-15 events)	£0.00	£1,000.00	NEW	£1,000.00	Change in fee structure	New capped fee introduced for returning and regular events
Licences, registration and permits	NSC Concession holders (per pitch)	Annual	£0.00	£1,200.00	NEW	£1,200.00	Change in fee structure	New capped fee introduced for returning and regular events
Licences, registration and permits	Animal Welfare Licensing	Preparing/issuing Regulation 7/8 notices (Organic Products Regulations 2009) to permit the movement of organic feed out of our area under seal	£0.00	£150.00	NEW	£150.00	New Fee	Fee required to cover costs
Licences, registration and permits	Animal Welfare Licensing	Pre-application advice in connection with all Animal Welfare Licensing categories - per hour	£0.00	£77.00	NEW	£77.00	New Fee	Fee required to cover costs
Licences, registration and permits	Business premises (plus VAT)	Revisit premises to early re rate	£185.00	£225.00	21.62%	£40.00	Inflation / Cost Recovery	To ensure cost recovery. The fee has been benchmarked with other authorities
Parking waivers - suspensions and dispensations		Trade Permit On-street pay and display - per day	£10.00	£10.00	0.00%	£0.00	Change in fee structure	To ensure cost recovery
Parking waivers - suspensions and dispensations		Suspension / dispensation - per day per bay (5m)	£10.00	£15.00	50.00%	£5.00	Change in fee structure	To ensure cost recovery
Parking waivers - suspensions and dispensations	Late notice supplement	3 to 5 work days	£0.00	£10.00	NEW	£10.00	Change in fee structure	To ensure cost recovery
Parking waivers - suspensions and dispensations	Late notice supplement	Under 3 work days	£0.00	£20.00	NEW	£20.00	Change in fee structure	To ensure cost recovery
Highway Licences	New Roads and Street Works Act	Statutory fees - defect per visit	£47.50	£120.00	152.63%	£72.50	National legislative change	Change narrative from Defect per visit, to: Performance based inspections. Now includes 3rd party reporting of defects previously charged separately
Highway Licences	Traffic regulation order (VAT exempt)	Temporary traffic regulation notice 5 or 21 day	£600.00	£700.00	16.67%	£100.00	Inflation / Cost Recovery	To ensure cost recovery

Parking Fees and Charges changes to be approved by the executive

APPENDIX 2

Location	Charging Period	Tariff	Current charge	Proposed charge	Increase / Decrease £	
Seafont and Marine Parade	March to October (Peak season)	4 hr	£6.00	£7.00	£1.00	Notice
Seafont and Marine Parade	March to October (Peak season)	All day	£10.00	£14.00	£4.00	Notice
Seafont and Marine Parade	March to October (Peak season)	Evening	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Notice
Seafont and Marine Parade	November to February (Low season)	4 hr	£2.50	£2.70	£0.20	Notice
Seafont and Marine Parade	November to February (Low season)	All day	£4.00	£4.00	£0.00	Notice
Seafont and Marine Parade	November to February (Low season)	Evening	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Notice
Carlton Street	24 hrs	1 hr	£1.30	£1.60	£0.30	Notice
Carlton Street	24 hrs	2 hr	£2.30	£2.80	£0.50	Notice
Carlton Street	24 hrs	3 hr	£3.50	£4.00	£0.50	Notice
Carlton Street	24 hrs	4 hr	£5.00	£6.00	£1.00	Notice
Carlton Street	24 hrs	All day	£12.00	£14.00	£2.00	Notice
Carlton Street	24 hrs	Evening from 6pm	£1.50	£2.00	£0.50	Notice
Carlton Street	24 hrs	Overnight Non Premier Inn 5pm to 10.30am	£6.00	£6.00	£0.00	Notice
Carlton Street	24 hrs	Weekend	£25.00	£26.00	£1.00	Notice
Carlton Street	24 hrs	Low season early bird Nov to March M - Sat	£3.00	£3.60	£0.60	Notice
Carlton Street	24 hrs	Cinema evening from 6pm	£1.00	£1.10	£0.10	Notice
Melrose	8am to 10pm	1 hr	£1.30	£1.60	£0.30	Notice
Melrose	8am to 10pm	2 hr	£2.30	£2.80	£0.50	Notice
Melrose	8am to 10pm	3 hr	£3.50	£4.00	£0.50	Notice
Melrose	8am to 10pm	4 hr	£5.00	£6.00	£1.00	Notice
Melrose	8am to 10pm	All day	£12.00	£14.00	£2.00	Notice
Weston-super-Mare On-street	Mon to Sat 8am to 6pm	20 mins	£0.30	£0.40	£0.10	Notice
Weston-super-Mare On-street	Mon to Sat 8am to 6pm	1 hr	£1.50	£1.60	£0.10	Notice
Weston-super-Mare On-street	Mon to Sat 8am to 6pm	2 hr	£3.00	£3.60	£0.60	Notice
Weston-super-Mare On-street	Mon to Sat 8am to 6pm	3 hr	£4.00	£4.60	£0.60	Notice
Grove Park	8am to 10pm	1 hr	£1.30	£1.60	£0.30	Notice
Grove Park	8am to 10pm	2 hr	£2.30	£2.80	£0.50	Notice
Grove Park	8am to 10pm	3 hr	£3.50	£4.00	£0.50	Notice
Grove Park	8am to 10pm	4 hr	£5.00	£6.00	£1.00	Notice
Grove Park	8am to 10pm	Evening	£1.50	£2.00	£0.50	Notice
Grove Park	8am to 10pm	All day	£12.00	£14.00	£2.00	Notice
Knightstone Causeway	8am to 10pm	1 hr	£1.30	£1.60	£0.30	Notice
Knightstone Causeway	8am to 10pm	2 hr	£2.30	£2.80	£0.50	Notice
Knightstone Causeway	8am to 10pm	3 hr	£3.50	£4.00	£0.50	Notice
Knightstone Causeway	8am to 10pm	4 hr	£5.00	£6.00	£1.00	Notice
Knightstone Causeway	8am to 10pm	Evening	£1.50	£2.00	£0.50	Notice
Knightstone Causeway	8am to 10pm	All day	£12.00	£14.00	£2.00	Notice
Sand Bay	8am to 6pm	1 hr	£0.50	£1.00	£0.50	Notice
Sand Bay	8am to 6pm	2 hr	£1.00	£2.00	£1.00	Notice
Sand Bay	8am to 6pm	All day	£2.50	£3.00	£0.50	Notice
Sand Bay	8am to 6pm	12 Month permit	£100.00	£100.00	£0.00	Notice
Worle Station	24 hrs	20 mins	£0.20	£0.30	£0.10	Notice
Worle Station	24 hrs	1 day	£2.40	£2.60	£0.20	Notice
Worle Station	24 hrs	2 day	£4.80	£5.10	£0.30	Notice
Worle Station	24 hrs	3 day	£7.20	£7.60	£0.40	Notice
Worle Station	24 hrs	4 day	£9.60	£10.10	£0.50	Notice
Worle Station	24 hrs	7 day	£10.00	£12.10	£2.10	Notice
Worle Station	24 hrs	Weekend	£4.00	£5.10	£1.10	Notice
Worle Station	24 hrs	6 month	£220.00	£250.00	£30.00	Notice
Worle Station	24 hrs	12 month	£375.00	£450.00	£75.00	Notice
Nailsea & Backwell Station	24 hrs	20 mins	£0.20	£0.30	£0.10	Notice
Nailsea & Backwell Station	24 hrs	1 day	£2.40	£2.60	£0.20	Notice
Nailsea & Backwell Station	24 hrs	2 day	£4.80	£5.10	£0.30	Notice
Nailsea & Backwell Station	24 hrs	3 day	£7.20	£7.60	£0.40	Notice
Nailsea & Backwell Station	24 hrs	4 day	£9.60	£10.10	£0.50	Notice
Nailsea & Backwell Station	24 hrs	7 day	£10.00	£12.10	£2.10	Notice
Nailsea & Backwell Station	24 hrs	Weekend	£4.00	£5.10	£1.10	Notice
Nailsea & Backwell Station	24 hrs	6 month	£220.00	£250.00	£30.00	Notice
Nailsea & Backwell Station	24 hrs	12 month	£375.00	£450.00	£75.00	Notice
Hampton	24 hrs	All day 24 hr	£6.00	£7.00	£1.00	Notice
Hampton	24 hrs	Overnight 6pm to 10.30am	£5.00	£6.00	£1.00	Notice
Hampton	24 hrs	Weekly 7 days	£30.00	£35.00	£5.00	Notice
Hampton	24 hrs	12 month	£425.00	£480.00	£55.00	Notice
Locking Road	24 hrs	All day 24 hr	£5.50	£6.00	£0.50	Notice
Locking Road	24 hrs	Overnight 6pm to 10.30am	£5.00	£5.00	£0.00	Notice
Locking Road	24 hrs	Weekly 7 days	£30.00	£30.00	£0.00	Notice
Locking Road	24 hrs	Car 2 days	£11.00	£12.00	£1.00	Notice
Locking Road	24 hrs	Car 3 days	£16.50	£15.00	£-1.50	Notice
Locking Road	24 hrs	Car weekly 7 days	£30.00	£30.00	£0.00	Notice
Locking Road	24 hrs	Car 12 months	£425.00	£480.00	£55.00	Notice
Locking Road	24 hrs	Coach all day	£10.00	£12.00	£2.00	Notice
Locking Road	24 hrs	Coach weekly	£40.00	£40.00	£0.00	Notice
Locking Road	24 hrs	Lorry Overnight	£10.00	£20.00	£10.00	Notice
Madeira	24 hrs	4 hours	£1.50	£1.60	£0.10	Notice
Madeira	24 hrs	All day	£3.00	£4.00	£1.00	Notice
Madeira	24 hrs	Coach all day	£6.00	£8.00	£2.00	Notice
Salthouse	March to October (Peak season)	1 hr	£1.30	£1.50	£0.20	Notice
Salthouse	March to October (Peak season)	4 hr	£4.00	£5.00	£1.00	Notice
Salthouse	March to October (Peak season)	All day	£7.00	£8.00	£1.00	Notice
Salthouse	March to October (Peak season)	Coach	£5.00	£10.00	£5.00	Notice
Salthouse	November to February (Low season)	1 hr	£1.30	£1.50	£0.20	Notice
Salthouse	November to February (Low season)	4 hr	£2.50	£2.60	£0.10	Notice
Salthouse	November to February (Low season)	All day	£4.00	£4.00	£0.00	Notice
Salthouse	November to February (Low season)	Coach	£5.00	£5.00	£0.00	Notice
Hawthorns	March to October (Peak season)	1 hr	£1.30	£1.50	£0.20	Notice
Hawthorns	March to October (Peak season)	4 hr	£4.00	£5.00	£1.00	Notice
Hawthorns	March to October (Peak season)	All day	£7.00	£8.00	£1.00	Notice
Hawthorns	November to February (Low season)	1 hr	£1.30	£1.50	£0.20	Notice
Hawthorns	November to February (Low season)	4 hr	£2.50	£2.60	£0.10	Notice
Hawthorns	November to February (Low season)	All day	£4.00	£4.00	£0.00	Notice
Leighwoods	9am to 6pm Mon to Sat	1 hr	£1.00	£1.20	£0.20	Notice
Leighwoods	9am to 6pm Mon to Sat	2 hr	£2.00	£2.00	£0.00	Notice
Leighwoods	9am to 6pm Mon to Sat	3 hr	£3.00	£3.60	£0.60	Notice
Leighwoods	9am to 6pm Mon to Sat	4 hr	£4.00	£4.60	£0.60	Notice
Leighwoods	9am to 6pm Mon to Sat	All day	£6.00	£6.60	£0.60	Notice
Walliscote Place	9am to 6pm Mon to Sat	All day	£3.00	£3.60	£0.60	Notice