

Resources Directorate Fees & Charges Proposals 2018/19

1. Introduction

1.1 The starting point for the base budget for the 2018/19 budget build is that Fees and Charges should increase in order to maximise income accepting that:

- Fees and charges can have a direct impact on usage and take up.
- In some circumstances the Council is providing services in direct competition to the private sector. Where this is the case, price is likely to have a direct link with demand and it is important that the Council does not price itself out of the market. In some areas benchmarking has taken place to ensure West Berkshire can compete with other authorities.
- Raising fees and charges can in some instances work against the Council's social inclusion agenda by effectively discriminating against those who are less able to pay.
- For some services there is a clear expectation that fees and charges will reflect the costs incurred in providing the service; the Council may be subject to legal challenge if increases in fees and charges cannot be justified.
- A 10% increase in Fees and Charges was identified in the Financial Challenge Review.

1.2 Within the Resources Directorate the main services and functions to which fees and charges apply are detailed in the specific proposals section below.

2. Specific Proposals

2.1 Electoral Services

These charges are statutory and the Council has no discretion to vary.

2.3 Land Charges

The proposal is to increase some of the Land Charges fees by 10% in 2018/19. The fee structure complies with legislation which requires the Council to only recover cost incurred in service delivery.

Description	2017/18 Fee	Proposed 2018/19 Fee
Elections - all fees are statutory		
Local Land charges		
LLC1	£65	£71
Con29 PT1	£45	£49
Con29PT11	£22	£24
Additional Questions	£40	£44
Con29 additional parcel	£35	£38
LLC1 additional parcel	£48	£52

2.4 Legal Fees

It is proposed to increase Legal Fees in line with inflation in 2018/19.

Description	2017/18 Fee	Proposed 2018/19 Fee
Legal		
Hourly charging costs:		
Managers	£135	£139
Team Leader	£128	£131
Solicitor	£123	£126
Legal Executive/Senior Legal	£113	£116
Trainee Solicitor	£97	£99
Landowners Statements	£1,000	£1,100
Registration of new town or Village Gree by Landowner by Owner	No Fee	No Fee
Correction for the purpose of section 19 (2)(a) of a mistake made by the Registration Authority	No Fee	No Fee
Correction for a purpose described in section 19(2)(b)(C) or (e)	£200	£200
Correction for a purpose described in section 19(2)(d) - payable per register unit	£30	£30

2.5 Social Care Training

The Government provides funding for care sector training and we use this funding to deliver a comprehensive joint training programme for staff and people working in the private and voluntary care sector. Anyone can access the training. The grant funding enables charges to local and accredited social care providers to be subsidised, hence the lower rate fee. Charging is essential to make the funding go

further and ensure people book on courses and turn up. We have applied an increase to our charges to recognise increasing costs.

The Department of Health requires Councils to work closely with its partners on joint training and to facilitate improved standards of care through training initiatives; therefore some joint training will have the same charges as the partners involved and will sit outside this charging policy

Description		2017/18 Fee	Proposed 2018/19 Fee
Social Care Training			
Voluntary/Associated Social Care/Personal Assistants	Full Day	£45.00	£46.00
	Half Day	£28.00	£28.00
Others	Full Day	£80.00	£82.00
	Half Day	£45.00	£46.00
Social Care Trainer hire to private voluntary & Independent social care providers, partners and accredited organisation	Full Day (no half day rate)	£150.00	£154.00
Social Care Trainer Hire to anyone else	Full Day (no half day rate)	£388.00	£399.00