

Blaby District Council
Cabinet Executive

Date of Meeting	4 November 2024
Title of Report	Schedule of Charges 2024/25 This is a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan.
Lead Member	Cllr. Maggie Wright - Finance, People & Performance (Deputy Leader)
Report Author	Finance Group Manager
Strategic Themes	All Themes: Enabling communities and supporting vulnerable residents; Enhancing and maintaining our natural and built environment; Growing and supporting our economy; Keeping you safe and healthy; Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend the proposed level of fees and charges for the financial year commencing 1st April 2025.

2. Recommendation(s) to Cabinet Executive

- 2.1 That the Schedule of Charges for 2025/26, appearing at Appendix A, is approved.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 To ensure that the fees and charges for 2025/26 are formally set and approved.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

As part of the annual budget setting cycle Service Managers have been asked to undertake a review of the Councils fees and charges with a view of maximising income streams, and to ensure that, where permissible, they are set at a level that achieves cost recovery as a minimum.

There are certain charges that are set at a national level, so these fees remain unchanged. In some cases, there is less scope to increase charges due to external competition, without having a negative impact on demand.

4.2 Proposals

The complete Schedule of Charges for 2025/26 is attached at Appendix A. Members attention is drawn to the following charges in particular -

Legal Fees

The increase in the fees proposed for 2025/26 for Legal fees is due to the officer time involved. The previous fees were not a true reflection of the time and work involved in the request.

Environmental Crime Fixed Penalty Notice Fees

The Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2023 have increased the maximum levels that specified Fixed Penalty Notices can be set at.

It is proposed that Blaby District Council make significant changes to Fixed Penalty Notice amounts in light of the new Regulations. A separate report is being brought to Cabinet members for review and request for approval, and is included on the agenda of the 4th November.

Leisure Centre Fees and Charges

These are set by our leisure management operator, SLM Limited, but have not yet been released. The Schedule of Charges will be updated to include the fees and charges applicable from 1st April 2025 once they are available.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

The Service Managers have been consulted and fully engaged in the calculation of these charges and fees.

4.4 Future Amendments to the Schedule of Charges

The Constitution grants delegated authority to the Executive Director (Section 151 Officer) to amend fees and charges, where necessary, during the financial year.

4.5 Significant Issues

None

4.6 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

5. Environmental impact

- 5.1 In preparing this report the author has considered the impact on the environment and there are no areas of concern.

6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 6.1 Not applicable

7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

- 7.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
The greatest risk is that the increase in a charge will significantly affect the take up of that service.	The elasticity of the demand for the service has been considered for each charge to avoid unnecessary loss of income.

8. Other options considered

- 8.1 Not to review the fees and charges. However, it is considered appropriate that, where possible, charges should be set at a level necessary to achieve full cost recovery.

9. Appendix

- 9.1 Appendix A – Schedule of Charges 2025/26

10. Background paper(s)

- 10.1 None.

11. Report author's contact details

Katie Hollis	Financial Services Group Manager
Katie.hollis@blaby.gov.uk	0116 272 7739