

**Report for:** Cabinet - 9 December 2025

**Item number:** 10

**Title:** Fees and Charges 2026-27

**Report authorised by:** Taryn Eves, Corporate Director of Finance and Resources

**Lead Officer:** Frances Palopoli, Head of Corporate Financial Strategy & Monitoring

**Ward(s) affected:** ALL

**Report for Key/  
Non-Key Decision:** Key

## **1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1. The income generated by many councils' fees and charges represents an increasingly significant proportion of their income, and therefore decisions on future charges have an increasingly greater effect on the sustainability of their services covered by those charges.
- 1.2. This Council's income policy requires an annual review of the level of the fees and charges to be met by service users, with the emphasis being on full recovery of costs, though it recognises that in some circumstances this is not possible.
- 1.3. This report sets out the Fees and Charges (F&Cs) proposed from the start of the financial year 2026/27, proposing increases to offset the cost increases associated with those services, or alternative values where circumstances indicate this is more appropriate.

## **2. Cabinet Member introduction**

- 2.1. Our ambition is for a fairer and greener Haringey. The fees and charges that we collect are needed to support and maintain our first-class local public services. When we set fees and charges, we consider affordability alongside the need for investment. We know just how many households are struggling with living costs.
- 2.2. For that reason, most fees will not rise above inflation. There are some, where we are bringing the price towards the cost of delivering the service. This is to protect the service in the longer term. We have also compared the proposed fees and charges to those charged by other similar boroughs, to ensure that we are charging a similar amount.
- 2.3. In some cases, we have lowered fees – judging that we need to put affordability first. This report lists out the full list of fees and charges for 2026/27.

### **3. Recommendations**

#### **3.1. The Cabinet is asked:**

- a) To agree the proposed non-statutory fees and charges to be levied by the Council with effect from 1 April 2026, unless otherwise stated, and as detailed in Section 8 and Appendices I – XIV.
- b) To note the statutory fees and charges to be levied by the Council with effect from 1 April 2026.
- c) To note that the Council's draft 2026/27 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2026/27-2030/31 assumes that the changes to Fees and Charges set out in this report are agreed.
- d) To agree that authority be delegated to the Director of Corporate Resources in consultation with the Member for Finance and Corporate Services to make any subsequent in-year changes or additions to the fees and charges proposed in this report.

Delegates authority to the Head of Highways and Parking to:

- e) Carry out all required statutory consultations regarding the proposed changes to charges and parking policy detailed in Appendix 11 and
- f) Make all necessary traffic management orders ("TMOs"), having considered any objections received in response to the statutory consultation, to implement the proposed changes, subject to key decisions being considered by Cabinet; and
- g) Where the Head of Highways and Parking considers appropriate, to decide to either
  - (i) not proceed with or
  - (ii) modify one or more of the proposed TMOs to address any matters arising from the statutory consultation or
  - (iii) to refer the matter(s) to Cabinet for determination

### **4. Reasons for Decision**

- 4.1. Under the Council's Income Policy, it is a requirement to review fees and charges as a minimum annually. Given the ongoing challenges facing the Council, this is even more appropriate.

### **5. Alternative options considered**

- 5.1. This report summarises the conclusions after consideration of a range of alternative approaches dependent on particular services and relevant factors. As such a range of alternative options ranging from no increase to differentiated rates of increases or decreases have been considered and are reflected in this report.

### **6. Background information**

- 6.1. The Council's External Income Policy requires that:
- Service managers should review the level of fees and charges, as a minimum annually, usually as part of the budget setting process.
  - Charges should generally increase by inflation (based on the rate available in September prior to the new year) as a minimum where permissible and seek to maximise allowable income.
  - A full list of proposed charges should be presented to Cabinet for approval by the end of March each year.
- 6.2. The setting of fees and charges, along with raising essential financial resources, can contribute to meeting the Council's objectives. Through the pricing mechanism and wider market forces, outcomes can be achieved, and services can be promoted through variable charging policies and proactive use of fees to promote or dissuade certain behaviours. In the main, fees and charges should be set at a level where the full cost of provision is recovered through the price structure. However, in some circumstances those charges are at a lower level, with service provision in effect subsidised by the Council to meet broader Council priorities.
- 6.3. This report meets the requirements of the Council's external income policy for the 2026/27 financial year and as such contains details of the current and proposed levels of fees and charges to take effect as set out during 2026/27, excluding those set by the Licensing Committee.

## **7. Review of Fees & Charges**

- 7.1. Some fees and charges are governed by statute and cannot be changed through this process, such as the amount charged for a Marriage or Civil Partnership ceremony or for a Birth Certificate. Many fees and charges, for example residential care or Building Control, can only recover relevant costs. The level of other fees and charges are at the discretion of the Council or are restricted to cost recovery.
- 7.2. The Council has a set of strategic and policy objectives, and fees and charges should be set in accordance with such objectives.
- 7.3. The general principles underpinning the Council's external income policy are that all fees and charges are reviewed as a minimum annually and that income is maximised within current service and policy objectives. The competitiveness of the market in which the service operates and the effect of price on demand and overall income yield should be considered.
- 7.4. The income policy assumes fees and charges increase annually by minimum of inflation unless there is a good reason not to, which must be explained. The latest published CPI rate was 3.8% (published 17 September 2025) and this is the inflation rate recommended to be applied in this report.
- 7.5. In some cases, where a % increase would give a very small cost increase and/or result in a charging rate that would be difficult to administer, charges are rounded up.
- 7.6. Several fees and charges cannot be set by the Cabinet. Regulation 2(6)(d) and (e) of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England)

Regulations 2000 provides those charges for certain approvals, consents, permits and licenses (e.g. fees payable under the Licensing Act 2003 or the Gambling Act 2005) may not be made by the Executive (Cabinet). These fees are set by the Council's Licensing Committee.

- 7.7. As part of the annual review, consideration is given to the Council's equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010). Where a screening process has identified a potential disproportionate impact for protected groups a full Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) will be completed.

## **8. Service Specific information**

### **Appendix I Adults**

- 8.1 Under Section 14 of the Care Act 2014, the Council has the power to charge for meeting care and support needs for adults and carers. The charges are means tested and take into account both income and assets possessed by the individual. This may or may not include an individual's residential home depending on whether the individual is receiving residential or community care. Charges are limited to cost recovery only. The principle of full cost recovery for all care and support services is set out in the Council's Fairer Contributions Policy, for which proposed changes are planned for 2026/27 as set out in Budget and MTFS report presented to Cabinet on 11 November ([Adults, Health & Housing Appendix](#)) and should be applied to all services. All proposed charge increases will be aligned with inflation.

### **Appendix II Management/Highways & Parking**

- 8.2 The Council's authority to operate and set parking-related charges is defined by the Road Traffic Regulation Act (RTRA), 1984. It is important to note that on-street parking charges cannot be set purely and intentionally to raise revenue, and charges must be proportionate and have regard to the costs of administration and enforcement.
- 8.3 Section 122 of the RTRA places a duty upon the Council to "secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway". The council meets that duty through a range of measures, including the setting of parking and highways fees and charges at a level that restrains parking demand, enables a more efficient road network and brings environmental benefits.
- 8.4 The Council will review fees and charges for the range of products and services it offers using a mix of benchmarking against other local authorities and a value proposition assessment to ensure the value the offer is aligned to any charges.

- 8.5 The Council must have due regard to implement maintenance and operating costs of any scheme introduced, to facilitate the delivery of its duty referred to in the initial paragraphs above and attempt to ensure that this is discharged following a cost recovery principle in respect of setting of fees and charges. In many cases the increase is proposed at 5%, however, to keep in line with market rates and benchmarking across neighbouring boroughs the increases range from 0% to 16%. There are 2 charges that fall outside this range, one for Parking suspensions - Admin Charge increased by 102% and the other being Parking suspension – per bay per day charge increased by 95%.
- 8.6 Following an external review of pricing structures for parking bay suspensions the charges applied have been altered. These increases show a percentage increase above inflation but bring the charges more in line with other authorities.
- 8.7 Increases applied to pay and display tariffs also propose a higher percentage increase, but this is due to relatively small amounts charged. For example, the increase in concessionary daily resident visitor permits is £0.40 but represents a 16% increase.
- 8.8 The Council is mindful of the current cost of living crisis and offers a comprehensive support package to mitigate the increase proposed to charge for at-risk and low-income residents. This includes:
- Blue Badge holders may park in resident permit, shared use and pay-by-phone parking bays (as well as disabled bays) free of charge for an unlimited period.
  - A free virtual disabled residential parking permit available to Blue Badge holders.
  - A free 'Care at Home' parking permit for those being cared for in their own homes.
  - Discounted visitor permits for residents who are registered disabled or aged 65 years or older.
- 8.9 The review and update of car parking tariffs is intended to deliver a comprehensive and consistent tariff offer, while taking account of the unique characteristics of those car parks. This seeks to address late night and Sunday parking, and pressures arising from events at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. The proposed charging structure brings us more in line with charging arrangements in other comparable boroughs. The event day charges are also informed by charges in other boroughs with major events. A 30% Diesel surcharge is proposed to be applied to all pay for parking charges, increasing from the current 25%.

- 8.10 Highway Searches are undertaken to provide details around property location of:
- Which roads are/not maintained at public expense.
  - Show the approximate extent of the highways and adopted roads in relation to property.
- 8.11 These 'extent of highway' search requests are made by search companies, conveyancers' and solicitors on behalf of clients purchasing property. These searches can only be carried out by the local authority. A fast-track search offer was introduced last year. It is proposed that both the standard and fast-track search fees are increased by 6.3% and 5% respectively.

### **Appendix IIIa Libraries**

- 8.12 The Library Charges (England and Wales) Regulations 1991 stipulate the items and services that may be charged for. Charges are at the discretion of the authority, and the authority may make different provision for different cases including different provision in relation to different persons, circumstances or localities. There can be no charge for the loan of written material (section 8 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964).
- 8.13 Library Service fees and charges fall into two categories:
- 1) An incentive to return items promptly, to take care of them and return them in good condition for the next Library member to borrow. This ensures that value for money is achieved for monies spent on library resources as they are available for loan for most of their lifetime. The charges that fall into this category are fines and charges for lost or damaged items.
  - 2) Income generation charges which include loan fees for audio visual materials, printing and room hire.
- 8.14 Commercial and Community room hire rates are proposed to both increase by inflation for 2026/27. Libraries continue to offer concessionary rates, particularly for room hire to support charities and local non-profit organisations in their efforts to benefit the community. These reduced rates help make the library's resources more accessible to groups that may have limited funding and incentivise them to hold events, workshops, or meetings that contribute to social, educational, and cultural development. By offering concessionary rates, libraries foster community engagement and ensure that their facilities are used for a wide range of public-good initiatives.
- 8.15 Concessionary rates of 50% remain available for library members who are either over 65s, 16-24 years old or in receipt of certain benefits and financial

support. Discounts apply to reservations of stock, overdue books, maximum overdue charge per item (except DVDs), DVD/Blu-ray hire, and Multi DVD sets.

- 8.16 All other charges have remained the same as the previous year due to benchmarking undertaken against local businesses and local authorities which are part of The Libraries Consortium.
- 8.17 The changes in library service charges are not consistent throughout each service, and this is done so deliberately. The largest proposed percentage increases are 33.3% for lost ticket replacement with a few services seeing a 0% change.

### **Appendix IIIb Cultural services**

- 8.18 Most charges are proposed to increase to reflect current market rates with an uplift varying from 2% to 8.3%. As digital scanning is one of the most used services, this has increased in line with the market, but it is important to attempt to be as attractive and accessible as possible.
- 8.19 The corporate rate half day courtyard space hire is proposed to increase by 12.6% based on market rates. New rates have been introduced to reflect the range of different size rooms available for wedding ceremony hires making it more attractive and accessible for users. In addition, a new rate for the Henrietta's Room has been introduced, following the recent refurbishments and upgrade of facilities to these rooms.

### **Appendix IV Garages**

- 8.20 The level of garage rent is based on demand, location and size and the income contributes to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) rather than the General Fund (GF).
- 8.21 To ensure the garage rents do not impact disproportionately on vulnerable customers a specific concessionary rate is in place for elderly and disabled Haringey residents to ensure they can access the service.
- 8.22 The service has reviewed its pricing strategy for 2026/27 and, in line with the ongoing rent restructure is proposing to increase charges by an average rate 3.4%.

### **Appendix V Asset Management**

- 8.23 Most rents for commercial properties are set through commercial negotiations with the tenant as part of the initial lease and subsequent rent reviews. The rents are set using nationally agreed Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors formulae taking into account variables such as location, size and condition of

the property. The rent payable at the time of entering into a lease is very much dependent on market forces driving best consideration and once agreed is usually fixed for periods (usually up to 5 years) before review. Commercial rent amounts are therefore not included for approval in this report.

- 8.24 There are currently no room hire charges in the Civic Centre and River Park House because they are currently closed for refurbishment. As such no changes are proposed at the current time.
- 8.25 Charges for facilities management services vary according to the size of the site. The annual support charge is proposed to increase in line with inflation at 3.8%.
- 8.26 Charges for room hire at the Neighbourhood Resource Centre continue to be set at cost recovery, rounded up to assist marketability. The Neighbourhood Resource Centre charge is proposed to increase by 3.8% in line with inflation.

#### **Appendix VI Court Summons/NNDR**

- 8.27 Legislation under the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 and the Non-Domestic Rating (Collection and Enforcement) Regulations 1989 defines that the cost of summons and a liability order is reasonably incurred. The cost of summons and liability orders is reviewed annually to ensure it remains fair and reasonable and reflects costs incurred.
- 8.28 Court Fees have not historically been set at a level sufficient to cover costs incurred, leaving a budget gap each year. The new fees get us closer to full cost recovery and are proposed to increase by between 15.4% and 37.6%. However, there remains a council subsidy which will be gradually removed through subsequent incremental fee rises in future years.

#### **Appendix VII Waste Services**

- 8.29 Household bulk bin hire is not proposed to change because benchmarking suggests the borough's pricing is already in line with other London authorities who offer similar provisions. It is important that hire remains competitive to housing managers, associations and agents when compared to outright purchase.
- 8.30 Household garden waste charges have been increased above inflation after taking on board outcomes from a recent external review. Replacement wheelie bin costs have not changed and remain in line with other London authorities that levy a similar charge. Bulky waste charges are frozen in line with last year to reflect market rates.



- 8.31 Commercial waste pricing is determined by market conditions and disposal costs rather than solely by corporately advised inflationary uplifts and proposed increases range from reductions of 40.0% and increases to 9.6%.
- 8.32 A new charge has been introduced that covers the council's costs when additional street trading enforcement has been requested by a commercial entity.

### **Appendix VIIIa Park Services**

- 8.33 Some fees have been adjusted to either fully or partially recover costs, others have been adjusted due to benchmarking and market rates. As with parking charges the service has conducted a full review to ensure that pricing remains fair but reflective of the service offer.
- 8.34 There are some items which have been increased to remove council subsidy, such as the sponsorship of bat and bird boxes, which now includes the cost of installation.
- 8.35 There has also been the removal of concessionary discounted tariffs for leisure services. This has been replaced by a new membership scheme that covers all leisure centres as agreed by Cabinet in February 2025.
- 8.36 The membership offer for the Leisure centres has also been refreshed with new silver and gold membership levels proposed to be introduced and allowing customers to choose which services they would like access to.

### **Appendix VIIIb Park Events**

- 8.37 The majority of fees are proposed to increase in line with inflation at 3.8%. However, commercial events whether large or major have been increased by 5% which is the maximum permitted rise for long term contracts.

### **Appendix IX Registrar**

- 8.38 Most fees for the Register Office are statutory and are set by the General Register Office and Treasury and cannot be changed by the Council. Statutory fees were last increased in May 2024 and include those for the registration of Births, Deaths, Notice of Marriage and Notice of Civil Partnership, issuing of certificates and corrections, divorce considerations and the payment for each citizen attending a citizenship ceremony. The fees for all but statutory fee marriage and civil partnership ceremonies are set by the council and most ceremonies fall into the non-statutory fee category.

- 8.39 The local authority marriage and civil partnership ceremony industry is highly competitive with couples able to get married at any register office. Extensive cross London benchmarking has taken place when preparing this fees proposal to ensure that the proposed fees are fair, reasonable, comparable, and accessible to couples whilst ensuring stability for the local registration service.
- 8.40 The service offer provides access over a range of price points to cater for different customer preferences and budgets. It is proposed to increase most fees above 3.8% with some fees increasing more significantly. The proposal if adopted will ensure that fees continue to align with those of competitors and protect income streams. Significant increases are only being proposed where benchmarking suggests current fees are underpriced and price sensitivity is low. The General Register Office has asked that wedding and civil partnership ceremony fees are charged net of the certificate fee. The statutory certificate fee for Births, Deaths, Marriage and Civil Partnership is £12.50 with a priority service costing £38.50.
- 8.41 Most non-statutory fees including for those for the core services used the most - Monday to Thursday, Friday and Saturday ceremonies are proposed to increase by approximately 9.6% with the most popular Earlham Room proposed to increase by 7.7%. Benchmarking indicates that the current rate for the medium sized Westbury Room is higher than other comparable register offices. It is proposed to reduce the average fee for a Westbury wedding by an average of 37.3% to attract couples, encourage upselling from the smaller Earlham Room and to have an overall positive effect to income streams. It is proposed to move from one combined Sunday and Bank Holiday ceremony fee to separate fees for each day, this is due to benchmarking indicating that current Bank Holiday fees are significantly below the market rate. A proposal is being made to reduce some fees significantly to stimulate demand, promote access and increase income. The highest proposed fee increases relate to none core business, for example ceremonies at unusual times of the day and night with low price sensitivity and higher complexity with their service delivery.
- 8.42 The incentive and discount scheme will continue this year providing 25% off agreed prices to stimulate demand for ceremonies at George Meehan House. Fee reductions will be applied in the following circumstances:
- Incentives to book for promotional events such as open days.
  - Discounts to incentivise people to switch venues and price match.
  - Discounts when there is low demand or excess capacity which is not likely to sell at full price.
- 8.43 Postage fees are proposed to align with Royal Mail cost prices in accordance with General Register Office guidance and postage is not charged on certificate orders in accordance with the guidance.

- 8.44 This proposal includes setting fees for 2027/28 at the same time as 2026/27. Fees for 2027/28 are set at 3.8% above proposed fees for 2026/27 and if adopted will be used to offset inflation for couples booking a ceremony a long way into the future. The 2027/28 fees will be reviewed will be reviewed as part of next year's review with adjustments made as required. The majority of couples book and have a ceremony within the same financial year.

### **Appendix X Regulatory Services**

- 8.45 These charges relate to Pest Control, Environmental Health, Fixed and Civil Penalty notices for regulatory services as well as Environmental permits and Local Authority Pollution Prevention Control (LAPPC) mobile plant charges. Fees are permissible by Acts of Parliament. Environmental Permit and Fixed Penalties are set by statute.
- 8.46 Most of the proposed charges are proposed to increase in line with the average of 3.8% except for Pharaoh's Ants, Cockroaches and Fleas – Domestic and concession, which is set to increase by 29.8%,17.8% and 24.5% respectively. These rises are attributed to market conditions and benchmarking.
- 8.47 The new matrix charge for civil penalty notices for Housing Offences has been updated following case law and is dependent on the offence. The ability to serve civil penalties for breach of Private sector Housing Licensing conditions has also been added.
- 8.48 The Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) remain in line with the maximum statutory charge. An early payment discount of 50% is still applicable for most FPNs.
- 8.49 The remaining charges have remained unchanged for various reasons. Some are established by regulations, while others are statutory, or government mandated.

### **Appendix Xb Property Licensing**

- 8.50 Mandatory HMO (Houses in Multiple Occupation) Licensing is a non-discretionary scheme introduced by Government which came into effect in 2006. The fee for a Mandatory Licence is proposed to increase by 3.8% with discounts attached for certain aspects of the licensing process. It applies to all HMO occupied by 5 or more persons making up two or more separate households across the whole borough.
- 8.51 A new borough wide additional HMO licensing scheme to complement the borough wide Mandatory licensing scheme was implemented in May 2024. This fee is proposed to increase by 3.8%.

- 8.52 The Selective Property Licensing Scheme introduced in 2022/23 will increase by 3.8%.
- 8.53 A £50 discount off the licencing fee is offered as a concession to landlords who have received training and are accredited to a landlord association. Housing with an EPC (C grade and above only) will also receive a £50 discount, the same as previous years. No increase in the discount has been proposed for 2026/27.
- 8.54 All licensing fee money is ring fenced to be used for the purposes of operating the schemes.

### **Appendix XIa Building Control**

#### **Building Control**

- 8.55 Charges are required to be set so that the Building Regulations service breaks even over a 3-year period.
- 8.56 Most Building control charges are proposed to increase by 3.8% or in some cases higher, mainly influenced by reflecting increased regulation of the sector, workload and current market. A 100% concessionary discount is available when the charges are related to disabled adaptation. Loft conversions and small extensions is proposed to increase by 5% based on market testing.
- 8.57 Land Charges are required to be set so that the Local Land Charges function breaks even over a 3-year period. Land charges fees are proposed to increase between 3.6% and 300% so that they are consistent with benchmarking of the borough's nearest neighbours and to ensure full recovery of the team's costs over a 3-year period.
- 8.58 Street Naming and Numbering charges are proposed to increase by 3.8% to account for inflation.

### **Appendix XIb Development services**

- 8.59 Most Planning fees are proposed to be increased in line with inflation (and rounded up where appropriate), though remaining affordable for residents, and commercially attractive for developers.
- 8.60 When benchmarked against the service provided and the fees charged by neighbouring local planning authorities the charges for both major residential categories are proposed to be increased by 10%.

- 8.61 The hourly rate charge for Head of Development Management advice is proposed to increase by 10%, to differentiate from the charge for planning team leader advice.
- 8.62 Specialist Energy, Carbon and Overheating advice is now included to help the service recover costs and is proposed to be charged at the same rate as other specialist services. This replaces the Sustainability Statement Review category.

## **Appendix XII Children's Services**

### **Children's Centres and Nurseries**

- 8.63 The fees for 2026/27 are proposed to increase by the current recommended inflation rate of 3.8%. Lunch costs increased significantly last year by 11.1% to cover higher costs. If charges were increased any higher, there would be a risk of falling demand.

### **Children's Contact Centre**

- 8.64 Maya Angelou fees are proposed to increase by current recommended inflation rate of 3.8%.

## **Appendix XIII Legal Commercial Fees**

- 8.65 All fees are proposed to increase in line with inflation rate of 3.8%.

## **Appendix XIV Carbon Literacy**

- 8.66 New fees for Carbon Literacy Training provided to external organisations are being introduced and to be set based on "Market rates".

## **Appendix XV Temporary Accommodation & Supported Housing**

### **Temporary Accommodation.**

- Birkbeck Lodge

- 8.67 Licence fees for Birkbeck Lodge are proposed to continue at formula rent + 10% for new residents. Existing occupants Licence fees will increase by CPI + 1% as determined by the Rent Standard

Service charges for all residents will be increased in line with full recovery of charges. These will be calculated in Quarter 4 and set for the following financial

year, to ensure accuracy. Residents will be notified at least 4 weeks before the increase.

- Leased and Licenced Accommodation

- 8.68 For properties leases or licenced to the Council and used as Temporary Accommodation, these will continue to have their rents/licence fees set at the full applicable Local Housing Allowance (LHA). Rent/Licence fees for these properties will increase in line with any changes in the LHA. If there is no change in LHA, there will be no change to these rents.

There will be no service charges applied to these residents.

- Bed and breakfast and Hotels.

- 8.69 For bed and breakfast and Hotels, the licence fees are proposed to remain unchanged (90% 2011 LHA plus £40 per week). There will be no service charges applied to these residents.

Supported Accommodation

- 8.70 For Supported Accommodation held in the General Fund, a separate decision will be taken by the Cabinet Member between January and March 2026, so no changes are proposed in this report.

**Housing Revenue Account Fees**

- 8.71 It is proposed that residents in temporary accommodation held in the HRA (including lodges) will have their licence fees increased by CPI + 1%.
- 8.72 Service charges for lodges will be reassessed annually, to ensure recovery of full costs.

**9. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-2026 High level Strategic outcomes.**

Maximising the Council's resources, particularly in the current financial climate, is a key part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. In addition, the review of fees and charges has considered the strategic outcomes of the current Corporate Delivery Plan.

**10. Carbon and Climate Change**

Some of the proposed recommendations should have a positive impact on carbon emissions, energy usage or climate change adaptation.

**11. Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Director of Legal and Governance, Equalities)**

**Finance**

- 11.1 The proposed changes to Fees and Charges outlined in this report and appendices have been reflected in the Council's proposed 2026/27 budget.

**Procurement**

- 11.2 Strategic Procurement has been consulted in the preparation of this report and notes the contents hereof. There are no procurement implications that will impact on the recommendations at section 3 above.

**Director of Legal & Governance [Haydee Nunes de Souza, Head of Legal Services]**

- 11.3 The Director of Legal & Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report and makes the following comments.
- 11.4 Certain fees for services provided by the Council are prescribed in statute. Accordingly, confirmation is given that in such instances the Council has no discretion as to the level of the charge. However, there are a further range of services where specific legislative provisions allow the Council to decide whether to charge and how much. One such service area is leisure and recreational facilities, where section 19(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 permits the Council to charge for these facilities beyond cost recovery limitations.
- 11.5 In addition, section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003 (the Act) - and guidance issued in 2006 pursuant to section 96(3) of the Act - empowers the Council to charge for discretionary services. A discretionary service is defined in the guidance as being one where the Council has the power to provide it but is not obliged to do so. However, this power cannot be used where the Council is under a duty to provide the service, or where charging is prohibited or where a specific legislative charging regime applies.
- 11.6 The Council must have regard to the guidance when charging for discretionary services under the Act. Accordingly, for each discretionary service which a charge is made, there is duty to secure that, taking one year with another, the income from charges for that service does not exceed the costs of provision. Any over or under recovery that results in a surplus or deficit of income in relation to costs in one period should be addressed by the Council when setting its charges for future periods so that over time income equates to costs.
- 11.7 In addition, Section 93 of the Act permits the Council to charge only some persons for providing a discretionary service and to charge different persons different amounts for providing a service.
- 11.8 The Council also has power under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals generally may do, subject to restrictions and limitations

imposed by other statutes. The general power of competence extends to charging for a discretionary service where there is no other power to charge for the service, including the power in section 93 of the 2003 Act. Similarly, under this provision, the Council may not recover more than the cost of providing that service.

- 11.9 In reviewing fees and charges, the Council need to have due regard to the overarching Public Sector Equality Duty as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. In so saying, it is noted that equality screening tools have been used as appropriate.
- 11.10 In light of the above, coupled with the stated equalities-based intention to keep initiatives under review and to make modifications as issues arise, there is no legal reason why Cabinet cannot adopt the Recommendations contained in this report.

### **Equality**

- 11.11 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and people who do not
  - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not
- 11.12 The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.
- 11.13 Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

The decision proposed in this report is to authorise the changes to fees and charges outlined above and in full detail in the appendices. These increases are to achieve the strategic and policy objectives of the Council which include the aim of cost recovery for service delivery, and such are reflective of inflationary conditions. Increases in fees and charges have been proposed by benchmarking against comparative boroughs and market rates to ensure that they are proportionate.

- 11.14 Where negative impacts can be anticipated as a result of these changes, the Council has put in place appropriate mitigations to prevent disproportionate impacts on at-risk and low-income residents.



- 11.15 Negative impacts on disabled people as a result of proposed increases to highways and parking fees have been mitigated by providing free of charge parking bays and a free virtual disabled residential parking permit to Blue Badge holders. Free parking permits are available to those being cared for in their own homes and discounted visitor permits are available for residents who are registered disabled or aged 65+.
- 11.16 Negative impacts because of increases in library charges are mitigated by providing concessionary rates of 50% for library members who are over-65, aged 16-24 or in receipt of certain benefits and financial support. Changes to room hire charges are mitigated by concessionary charges for charities and non-profit organisations.
- 11.17 To prevent increases in garage rents disproportionately impacting specific groups, a specific concessionary rate is in place for elderly and disabled Haringey residents to ensure they can access the service.
- 11.18 Increases to building control fees are mitigated by a 100% concessionary discount for charges related to disabled adaptation.

## **12. Use of Appendices**

### **12.1 Fees & Charges Schedules**

Appendix I	Adult's Services
Appendix II	Highways and Parking
Appendix III a	Libraries Charges
Appendix III b	Cultural Services Charges
Appendix IV	Garage Rents
Appendix V	Asset Management
Appendix VI	Court Summons
Appendix VII	Waste Services
Appendix VIII a	Parks Services
Appendix VIII b	Parks Events
Appendix IX	Registrars
Appendix X a	Regulatory Services (excl. Licenses etc. set by Reg. Committee)
Appendix X b	Property Licensing
Appendix XI a	Building Control and Local Land Charges
Appendix XI b	Development Management
Appendix XII	Childcare and Children's Services
Appendix XIII	Legal Commercial External Fees
Appendix XIV	Carbon Literacy
Appendix XV	Temporary Accommodation and Supported Housing

## **13. Background papers**

None