

Changes to Fees and Charges other than 2%

For the majority of services there will be a 2% increase for 2015/16. For many small charges, the uplift is rounded up to a sensible figure. These are not disclosed below due to materiality.

A number of charges will remain at the 2014/15 price as they are at the current full economic cost of provision.

Those charges that are materially above the suggested 2% increase are identified below:

Social care Health & Housing

Residential Care and Day Opportunities

Uplift linked to 1% government cap on working age benefits

Domiciliary Care

Freeze rates as they are already nationally high based on benchmarking information.

Blue Badges and Best Interest Assessments / Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

Freeze rates as these are set nationally

Older Peoples' Care Homes

Uplift linked to Basic State Pension increase of at least 2.5% in line with the commitment to the triple lock. These will be reviewed in 2015/16 when there is a clear picture of operating costs.

Impact of the Care Act

The Care Act could provide opportunities for additional fees and charges to those included on the current SCH&H schedule. Further consideration will need to be given once the full detail of the Care Act is known.

Community Services

A number of Community Service charges have been held at 2014/15 rates as they are in line with the current full economic cost of provision.

Mobile Food Trading

It is proposed to cease charging for mobile food trading. The service has only been used once in over 3 years and it is not cost effective to maintain the resources to collect or police them.

Concessionary fares

Travel Aid scheme has been increased to match the fees charged for concessionary fares for adults as the cost of provision is the same.

Highways and Transportation

Temporary Traffic and Emergency Traffic Regulation Orders requested by Companies have been increased by c15% and is based on benchmarking with other authorities.

Directional Signage

A new charges for Tourist and Temporary Directional Signage - per application (non refundable). This is charges on the same basis as the existing service for developers.

Libraries and Theatre

Room hire fees have been introduced for Shefford Library. These are in line with charges for other meeting rooms within Libraries.

Charges for refreshment facilities have also been introduced for all Libraries.

Regeneration and Business Support

All charges within Regeneration are under review and have been held at 2014/15 rates.

Improvement & Corporate Services

Legal Services

Proposed charges for 2015/16 are based on benchmarking and have increased by 5%.