

Appendix H - Fees & Charges 2018/19

Background

- 1.1. By using its powers to charge for goods and services, Brent Council is able to generate additional income to support investment in services and/or reduce the overall level of expenditure to be met by local tax payers.
- 1.2. In using these powers however, the Council will wish to take care to ensure that the consequences of charging on individuals, the wider aims of the Council itself and / or organisations do not adversely impact on those who are vulnerable or in difficulties.
- 1.3. The overriding aim of the charging policy is to maximise income generation and collection to enhance the social and economic well-being of the community the council serves, whilst ensuring a fair price for all services reflecting the ability of the community to pay and the relative demand for the service. Maximisation of income, following a decision to charge, is also dependent on a charge being raised and that amount being collected, both in a timely way.
- 1.4. In February 2017, Cabinet agreed an overall policy to amend Fees and Charges. This policy was produced so that managers, through delegated powers, had greater flexibility and control in optimising commercial returns.

Application of the Fees and Charges Policy

- 1.5. This work stream though integral to each directorate, has initially been led by the Civic Enterprise Board to establish a strategic approach to how fees and charges are set. This work continues throughout the year.
- 1.6. In 2017/18, £349k of additional net income was delivered. No additional net income was assessed for Adult Social Care, Children's services or Education / Schools.
- 1.7. An additional £410k has already been committed for delivery through 2018/19 through an increase in waste charges and in Highways & Transportation (excl. parking). Tennis court hire and pitch booking increases are expected to achieve a further £34k and £16k will be achieved by raising the printing charges within libraries. It should be noted that these income increases are predicated on volumes remaining the same as in 2017/18.

Additional Income	2017/18	2018/19	Cumulative
Waste		376	376
Planning and Development	56		56
Highways and Transportation (Excl. Parking)	86	34	120
Culture, Sport and Recreation	145	16	161
Public Safety / Food Safety	34		34
Licensing (inc Land Charges)	7		7
Pest Control	21		21
Additional Income totals	349	444	775

- 1.8. For 2018/19, a refreshed fees and charges list is being produced and all directorates are being challenged to increase discretionary fees and charges by 10% unless justification can be given otherwise. The aim is to bring all discretionary services to a cost recovery position initially, and then in line with the wider market for individual services where appropriate.
- 1.9. Appropriate consideration will be made for vulnerable groups including those on low incomes and to avoid further increasing costs where other options for meeting costs for delivery remain.