

Appendix L (i) Fees and Charges Explanatory Note

By using its powers to charge for goods and services, the 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.

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.

The overriding aim of the charging policy (set out in Appendix L (iii)) 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.

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.

The charges shown in Appendix L (ii) have been reviewed to either bring them to a cost recovery position, reflect the inflationary pressures particular services are subject to and / or bring them in line with the wider market for individual services where appropriate.

An independent review of fees and charges has also been commissioned to benchmark Brent's fees and charges against neighbouring local authorities. The main aims of this review are to

- (i) identify services that the Council currently doesn't charge for but other local authorities do and
- (ii) understand how Brent's charges compare to other local authorities.

Decisions on whether to make changes to Brent's fees and charges as a result of the review will be made on a case by case basis in consultation with the relevant Lead Member.

The full schedule of proposed fees and charges for 2020/21 is set out in Appendix L (ii)