

Draft Concessions Policy

A concession is defined as a reduction in the usual price of a service that is granted to specific target groups or individuals (and their helpers where appropriate). A concession should not be confused with discounts available as routine marketing initiatives.

Objective

To ensure greater consistency and fairness in the application of concessions for specific services provided by Cherwell District Council. This policy will also form the basis of contractual discussions on concessions to the fees for services contracted out through alternative providers, whilst acknowledging that market forces will be the main determinant.

This policy will apply with effect from

Principles

This policy shall apply to some fees that the Council has discretion to set for services to individuals .

- *Need to establish the financial implication for specific services: pest control; pre-application planning advice; bulk waste services, septic tank emptying; animal licencing; rodent control, et al.*

Car park charges shall be a known exception to the policy, and will be subject of separate detailed consideration.

- *What mechanism required for identifying and approving these and other exceptions?*

There shall be consistency and harmony in the way that concessions are applied across the District.

All concessions should be simple to implement and monitor.

Target groups and Individuals

Concessions will be targeted at groups of persons or individuals in recognition of particular need, or as an incentive, to meet specific service objectives.

- *What mechanism required identifying and approving these target groups??*
- *What mechanism to set service objectives?*

Application

Each concession will be calculated and applied as a fixed percentage of the full service cost, or at a flat rate.

Monitoring

The application of concessions will be monitored by [*the service manager/portfolio holder?*]

- *and assessed for value for money through the normal budget scrutiny process?*

Appendix 2

Authority

Each concession will be approved by the full Council, after consideration of the subsidy required and the priority given to the service objectives. The specific subsidies will be made clear and will be a conscious decision to meet service objectives.

- *On advice of Budget Scrutiny Committee following review with relevant service manager and Section 151 officer?*
- *Should Executive have discretionary power to implement urgent changes?*