South Gloucestershire Council

Further information

Options for generating additional income

Cutting spend on services has left us having to make incredibly difficult decisions about what we need to do less of, stop doing or pass on responsibility for. In the consultation for last year's budget, local people told us they wanted us to increase what we earn to lessen the cuts we need to make to services.

We have now progressed this work and identified options for how we might generate additional income by 2025/26 to offset current shortfalls. This includes increasing what we charge for some services to ensure they cover their costs and charging for things which people have not had to pay for previously.

In identifying options, we have prioritised measures which are already in place and working well in other areas of the country, and ensuring individuals pay a fair market cost for subscription type services rather than those charges being subsidised by taxpayers. We have also considered the role that charges can play in encouraging positive behaviours, for example in driving environmental benefits.

The options under consideration are:

Measure	Potential income
Introducing car parking charges. People are used to paying for on- and off-street parking in most other local authority areas, but South Gloucestershire Council does not currently charge. We will consider a range of options including long stay / short stay parking charges, Pay & Display, parking bays and resident permit schemes.	£1.5m to £2m per year
Increasing the cost of the green waste subscription service to £60 per year for 2024/25. This is similar to what is charged by neighbouring councils and allows us to cover the costs of providing the service. The annual cost would then increase in line with inflation going forward.*	£900k in 24/25, rising to £1.3m over the next 4 years
Introducing a £10 charge to cover the costs of processing Blue Badge applications. South Gloucestershire Council remains an outlier in providing this service free of charge.	£46k per year
Extending the term for Exclusive Rights to Burial from 50 to 60 years. This step, which brings us into line with what happens elsewhere, would increase the fee paid by funeral directors by approximately 20%.	£35k per year
Increase land charges to match the average people pay in other areas when they are purchasing a house. Again, this step is about charging what it costs us to provide the service.	£20k per year

* We are consulting on wider changes to our waste service separately, please go to https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/waste_less/consultationHome for more information. Those proposals focus on reducing the environmental impact of the service and balancing our costs with the available funding.