

Social Care charging policy for 2026/27 approved.

12 Councillor Cunningham, City Convener for Health, Care & Caring and Older People, presented a report regarding a revised Social Care charging policy for 2026/27, advising

- (1) that the Social Care charging policy, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, set out the Council's Social Work Services charging policy with a focus on non-residential charging, together with the legislative background to charges for non-residential social care services and described the services to which service user contributions applied, together with minimum income thresholds and tapers, which had been updated to reflect various changes, as detailed in the report; and
- (2) that the annual review process had taken into consideration a range of factors, as detailed in the report and the proposed changes for this year's review to reflect Regulations coming into force on 6th April 2026 were as follows:-
 - (a) an increase in the Local Authority rates to reflect the increased cost of delivery with most charges having a 4.5% uplift;
 - (b) there would be no increase to aids and adaptations, minimal limits or the blue badge administration;
 - (c) an increase to the Minimum Income Thresholds and Interim Charges in accordance with the annual Department for Work and Pensions/Social Security Scotland benefit uplifts;
 - (e) an alignment with COSLA guidance in respect of Partner's Carers benefit, these benefits would be excluded as income from the financial assessment and calculation of charge and that the Health and Social Care Partnership would review existing financial assessments where this would apply; and
 - (f) the removal of Private Help at Home rates.

After consideration, the committee approved the revised Social Care charging policy for 2026/27, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, as directed by the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) in support of the delivery of Council services in accordance with the IJB's Strategic Plan.