

Bath & North East Somerset Council

DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Dine Romero, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People and Communities	
DECISION DATE:	On or after 18 th March 2023	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3450
TITLE:	Service Level Agreement for School Admission Appeals – Democratic Services	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Service Level Agreement for School Admission Appeals 2023-2024		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to obtain agreement to the charges for School Admission Appeals, outlined in the Service Level Agreement (SLA) provided by Democratic Services for the year April 2023 – March 2027 for local authority schools (community and voluntary controlled) and those academy, foundation and voluntary aided schools that use the service. Last year there were 134 school admission appeals.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is asked to agree:

2.1 The charge for a school admission appeal to be set at £230 per appeal from April 2023 to reflect the cost of living.

2.2 The charges outlined in the SLA for the school admission appeal services - as set out in Appendix 1 – will be reviewed annually in light of the UK Consumer Price Index (“CPI”) and amended on an upwards only basis from 1 April 2024 until 31 March 2027.

3 THE REPORT

3.1 Democratic Services provide a school appeals service for local authority schools (community and voluntary controlled) and those academy, foundation and voluntary aided schools that request it, in accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and School Admission Appeals Code 2022. In order to

do this, a recharge is made to the Admissions & Transport team who hold the budget for school admission appeals.

3.2 The SLA provides the framework for the provision of this service outlining the responsibilities of the Admissions & Transport Team and Democratic Services for any appeals arranged for an own admission authority school.

3.3 In light of the ongoing financial pressures facing the Council, the Service intends to increase its schedule of fees and charges in accordance with CPI from 1 April 2024 and review these annually on an upwards only basis until and including 1 April 2026.

3.4 The rates are set within the context of neighbouring Authorities charges.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The centrally held funds are held under the School Finance regulations 2022. The Local Authority retains funding to support all schools (maintained, academies and VA) in the same manner. This approach has been approved by the Schools Forum of the LA in accordance with the regulations.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 This is an update to charges for existing services; no additional resources are required to implement the recommendations. This review is needed to reflect the cost of the services provided and to support existing revenue budgets.

5.2 Bath and North East Somerset retains the central budget for school admission appeals so own admission authorities schools are not charged directly for appeals. The budget for appeals sits within the council's Education budgets, funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant, and the increase in charge has been budgeted for 2023/24.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 Not relevant.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 No relevant considerations.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 The proposed fees do not directly impact climate change.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 The Council has benchmarked admission appeal charges of other local authorities.

Contact person	Enfys Hughes, School Appeals Officer, Democratic Services 01225 394410
Background papers	Service Level Agreement 2023-2024 The Provision of a School Appeals Service
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	