

Warwick District Council – Concessions Policy

What are the Council's aims?

Warwick District Council is committed to ensuring a consistent approach to how we charge individual customers and community groups for discretionary services and goods that are provided in its name.

Warwick District Council is committed to ensuring that discretionary charging practice supports the Council's wider policy objectives.

Warwick District Council is committed to doing what it can to help disadvantaged residents of the District.

Who is this policy for?

This policy is for anybody that uses discretionary services or goods provided by Warwick District Council, or provided in its name, and for which there is a charge made. (The Spa Centre is not covered by this policy as prices frequently need to be agreed with the performers' agents).

What is a concession?

The Audit Commission has defined a concession as any service for which a local authority has discretion to make a charge and in doing so sets that charge below the cost of service provision. Basically, it is a reduced charge for selected categories of users

The District Council raises a significant part of its income from fees and charges. There are a number of areas where the income generated by the Authority from standard fees and charges does not cover the cost of service provision, however the Council feels that it is good for the health and wellbeing of the District to provide these services despite income not covering the full cost of the service. Therefore all users in those service areas receive a concession.

This policy covers those fees and charges fixed by Warwick District Council which are applied to specific groups of people/ organisations and which are levied at a lower rate than the standard fee or charge for particular services..

To ensure that appropriate concessions are available to targeted residents or groups they have been categorised as follows: Warwick District Council – Concessions Policy

Quality of Life Concessions

- Pest control
- Refuse – special collections

Healthy Lifestyle concessions

- Leisure facilities and out door pitches and facilities

Use of Facilities

Rates by negotiation depending on hirer's ability to pay and demand (peak and off- peak)

Heritage and Educational Concessions

- Museum
- Art Gallery

Blue Disabled Persons Badge

Free Parking in Council Car Parks for vehicles displaying a valid Blue Disabled persons Badge

Categories of customer

Concessions should be available for four categories of customer:

1. Junior (18 and under) or students in full time education
2. People on means tested benefits (together with their spouses and partners. Any income from spouses/partners is taken into consideration when determining means tested benefits).

At present these benefits are:

- a. Income support
- b. Job Seekers Allowance
- c. Families Tax Credit
- d Benefits Agency notice

3. Pensioners and Disabled
4. Group – concessions available to groups and organisations in the Warwick District Council.