

OHS Sefton ARC – Proposed Fees and Charges 2025/26

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| Date of Issue: | 7 January 2025 | |
| Date of Decision: | 15 January 2025 | |
| Report to: | Cabinet Member - Cleansing & Street Scene | |
| Report of: | Assistant Director of People (Operational In-House Services) | |
| Portfolio: | Cleansing & Street Scene | |
| Wards affected: | All Wards | |
| Is this a key decision: | No | No |
| Included in Forward Plan: | | |
| Exempt/confidential report: | No | |

Summary:

Sefton ARC & Sefton Careline fees and charges for 2025/26 are set out in the report and are proposed for adoption and enactment from 1st April 2025.

Recommendation(s): That Cabinet Member:

(1) Approves the Sefton ARC fees and charges for 2025/26 as set out in the report and appendix in line with CPI.

1. The Rationale and Evidence for the Recommendations

To provide an open and transparent way in which fees and charges are agreed annually for all Sefton ARC and Careline services. The report sets out the fees & charges for Sefton ARC service, and why this is required to ensure a sustainable service for the service users of the Security, Careline and electrical services. This will ensure a sustainable and stable economic service for the future. The service including staff, provide all aspects associated with facilitating and operating the ARC Function which includes, 24/7 alarm monitoring, assessment of clients in their homes to general administration duties including finance (billing).

Sefton ARC work collaboratively with partners across the Council, including internal corporate buildings and Adult Social Care (ASC) to ensure it provides the best possible solutions to those who need them most.

Investing in its future, Sefton ARC and Careline supports the apprenticeship programme, promoting opportunities for development and growth and employment by providing and developing a skilled workforce for its future.

2. Financial Implications:

There are no costs associated with this report, but fees and charges form a key part of the overall Council budget. Income that is generated will contribute towards income targets and the associated costs of running the service. There are no direct capital costs associated with the recommendations in this report.

3. Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications with this report.

4. Corporate Risk Implications:

There are no corporate risk implications.

5 Staffing HR Implications:

There are no staffing implications.

6 Conclusion:

The service provides a core service to businesses, colleagues and customers of Sefton in ensuring that there is 24/7/365 support for residents, visitors and vulnerable people across the borough. The electrical and alarms team also provides a core operational service to Sefton Council corporate buildings and schools throughout the borough.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 1.** Do not adjust historic SLAs and costs which could result in the schools using other service providers.
- 2.** If set fees and charges are not agreed for Sefton ARC and careline services this could result in lost revenue to the current market.

Equality Implications:

There are no equality implications.

Impact on Children and Young People:

No

Climate Emergency Implications:

The recommendations within this report will have a Positive / Neutral / Negative impact.

The content of this report sets out the fees and charges associated with the work and projects undertaken by Sefton Arc.

The UK is preparing for a huge technological change. By the end of 2025, the historic analogue network, used to make most phone calls from our landlines will have reached the end of its life.

The content of this report sets out the rationale for service fees and charges of the Sefton Arc services.

The service is a vital asset to the Sefton Community, particularly those who are vulnerable: The service provides equipment, advice and assurance, promoting independent living through the installation of Technology.

The proposed is essential to ensure the service meets the objectives of Sefton's digital strategy.

Digital technology offers more benefits, such as increased reliability, better quality and greater flexibility. Digital technology also allows for more efficient and cost-effective care, which can benefit both service providers and users.

As with any industry, technology will always prevail as the biggest threat. Developments in technology are inevitable, however, embracing new technology will give us greater possibilities in developing the service for the future.

The fees and charges associated with the service are fundamental to its financial management, and the development of the service, and the benefits this brings to the climate emergency.

It is therefore considered that the work of the Sefton Arc service has a positive effect on climate change.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Services and Commercial (FD..7853/24....) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD..5953/24...) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

N/A

Implementation Date for the Decision :

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Cabinet Member decision.

Implementation w.e.f. 1.4.2025

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report: Sefton ARC fees and charges