

Fees and Charges document

This document should be read in conjunction with the HCC Charging for Goods and Services policy, which is applicable for the services provided by the SuDS and Watercourses team.

1. Surface Water Drainage advisory Service

Our current approach as part of the Surface Water Drainage advisory service is to provide a quote which is variable and dependent on the type and size of the development.

This is an estimate and may be subject to an additional charge where further work/time is required compared. Any additional time will be notified to the applicant and will be charged at the same hourly rate.

Confirmation in writing of the applicant's agreement to pay the council's charges prior to any advice being given must be provided.

The charges are set out below and come into force on 1st April 2017.

The standard charge is £90.00 per hour/per officer (+VAT). Charges will apply to the following:

- Assessment of the information submitted as part of the pre-application request
- Site investigation
- Travelling time to and from site
- Meetings with officers, either at County Hall or on site
- Post meeting administration or research
- The provision of written advice

Where additional officers are required to attend any meetings or site visits the fee will be an additional hourly charge of £90.00 (+VAT) per officer.

Meetings either on site or at an office will need to be attended by a minimum of two appropriately qualified and experienced officers and any request for specialist advice will be confirmed at the time of arranging the meeting.

There will be a minimum charge of £360 (+VAT) which equates to 4 hours. Please note we only charge by the hour so part hours will not be considered and will be charged at the full hourly rate.

2. Ordinary Watercourse Land Drainage consent

Land Drainage Act 1991 charging rate

The LLFA is the regulatory body with powers relating to the management of ordinary watercourses (OWC) in Hertfordshire. This relates to ordinary watercourse consenting and enforcement, as per sections 23, 24 and 25 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 (LDA 1991).

In the application of the section 23 of the Land drainage Act 1991 which is related to the consenting of structures on an ordinary watercourse for both construction and removal, a nationally set fee is charged of £50 per structure. Consent is required for both new structures or for any temporary works that may impede the normal flow of the watercourse. The detailed reference in the LDA 1991 is as follows:

Land Drainage Act 1991 c. 59 Part II Control of flow of watercourses etc.

Section 23 Prohibition on obstructions etc. in watercourses

(2) The drainage board concerned may require the payment of an application fee by a person who applies to them for their consent under this section; and the amount of that fee shall be £50 or such other sum as may be prescribed.

Application fees are required for all new application to be validated and the formal application process will not commence until the appropriate fee has been paid and received by the LLFA.

If the applicant is unsure of the fee, a description of the works can be sent to the LLFA and the LLFA will provide a statement on the fees applicable. Please note that this does not include support from the LLFA to define the nature of the works.

If it is the view of the case officer that additional support is required prior to the submission of a formal application then the applicant can choose to use the advisory service subject to the cost of this being accepted by the applicant.

The mechanism and charges associated with accessing this service are the same as for the surface water advisory service.