



Stafford
BOROUGH COUNCIL

STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

CONCESSIONS POLICY

Stafford Borough Council – Concessions Policy

What are the Council's aims?

Stafford Borough 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.

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

Stafford Borough Council is committed to ensuring that any concessions offered to individual customers and groups are firmly based on the ability to pay.

Who is this policy for?

This policy is for anybody that uses discretionary services or goods provided by Stafford Borough Council, or provided in its name, and for which there is a charge made.

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.

The Borough Council raises in excess of £3.5M per annum 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. Therefore all users in those service areas receive a concession. This policy covers those fees and charges fixed by Stafford Borough 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. It should also be recognised that not all services for which the Council can make a concession are included in this policy.

The Borough Council administers a number of statutory concessions. These relate to planning fees for Town and Parish Councils, sports club proposals for playing fields and adaptations for disabled people. In addition, the Transport Act 2000 places a statutory requirement on local authorities to implement a Concessionary Fares Scheme; which at present provides a half fare bus pass free of charge at the point of issue. As these concessions are non-discretionary they are omitted from this policy.

Types of concession

To ensure that appropriate concessions are available to targeted residents or groups they have been categorised as follows:

Primary concessions

- Pest control
- Various types of sampling
- Refuse – special collections
- Cremations/burials
- Sewage treatment and disposal – Housing Act Works

Quality of Life/ Healthy Lifestyle concessions

- Leisure facilities and out door pitches at:
 - Rowley Park
 - Riverside Recreation Centre
 - Westbridge Park
 - Alleynes High School
- Leisure Passes
- Stafford Gatehouse Theatre – tickets for some performances
- Youth Theatre
- Car Parking

Group concessions

- Stafford Gatehouse Theatre – Hiring
- Heritage Sites – Group Admittance for Guided Tours

Categories of customer

Concessions should be available for four categories of customer:

1. Junior (16 and under) or students in full time education within the Borough
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. Working Families Tax Credit
 - d. Disabled Persons Tax Credit
 - e. Pensions Tax Credit
 - f. Housing Benefit
 - g. Council Tax Benefit
3. Pensioners
4. Group – concessions available to groups and organisations in the Borough

Stafford Borough Council – Concessions Policy

Eligibility for Concessions

The following concessions are available:

Category of customer	Type of concession
Junior/ student	Quality of life/ healthy lifestyle Cremation/ burial
People on means tested benefits	Primary Quality of life/ healthy lifestyle
Pensioners	Quality of life/ healthy lifestyle
Groups	Gatehouse Theatre – hiring Heritage sites

Primary and group concessions (excluding heritage sites) are available only for residents/households or groups in the Borough. In respect of leisure facilities people over 16 years old must reside in the Borough area in order to obtain a leisure pass. Full time students must be attending an educational establishment in the area. However, there is no residential condition for juniors in respect of leisure facilities, visits to heritage sites or the Stafford Gatehouse Theatre. In addition car parking for disabled people has no residential qualification attached to it.

Concessions available

The concessions available are listed in the table below:

Concession Type	Detail	Available to	Amount of concession
Primary	Pest control – nuisance insects – wasp, ants and fleas	People on means tested benefits	50%
Primary	Sampling - asbestos	People on means tested benefits	100%
Primary	Sampling - water	In cases of hardship or where the supply serves a charitable or voluntary body	50%
Primary	Refuse – special collection	People on means tested benefits	50%
Primary	Cremation fee Burial fee	Junior In cases of hardship Junior	100% £80 reduction in fee 100%
Primary	Sewage treatment and collection – Housing Act	Persons in receipt of Council Tax Benefit	50%

Stafford Borough Council – Concessions Policy

Concession Type	Detail	Available to	Amount of concession
	Works		
Quality of life/ healthy lifestyle	Car parking	Disabled persons	100%
Quality of life/ healthy lifestyle	Rowley Park - Athletics Track, Bowls, Crazy Gold/Putting, Grass Pitches, Tennis	Juniors, people on means tested benefits, pensioners, groups	50%
Quality of life/ healthy lifestyle	Riverside Recreation Centre – Swimming, Fitness Suite (off peak), Badminton, Squash, Indoor Bowls, Sunbeds, Sauna, Annual Membership, Admission charges	Juniors, people on means tested benefits, pensioners	50%
Quality of life/ healthy lifestyle	Westbridge Park – Badminton, Indoor Bowls, Annual Membership, Admission charges	Juniors, people on means tested benefits, pensioners	50%
Quality of life/ healthy lifestyle	Allyenes Sports Centre – Swimming, Squash, Annual Membership, Admission charges	Juniors, people on means tested benefits, pensioners	50%
Quality of life/ healthy lifestyle	Stafford Gatehouse - Youth Theatre fees	Dependant juniors (16 or under) of people on means tested benefits	50%
Quality of life/ healthy lifestyle	Stafford Gatehouse – Tickets for some performances	Juniors, pensioners	50%
Group concessions	Stafford Gatehouse Theatre – room hire	Registered Charities and SDAC (Stafford District Art	10%

Stafford Borough Council – Concessions Policy

Concession Type	Detail	Available to	Amount of concession
		Council) discount	
Group concessions	Ancient High House – guided tours	Juniors	50%
Group concessions	Izaak Walton Cottage – guided tours	Juniors	50%
Group concessions	Stafford Castle – guided tours	Juniors	50%