

# AGENDA ITEM 9

## COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

14 SEPTEMBER 2016

### REPORT OF HEAD OF CENTRAL SERVICES

#### A CORPORATE REVIEW OF CHARGES 2017-18

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information on the various fees and charges that are made by this committee.
- 1.2 To recommend changes to these charges to operate from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.

#### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the Committee determines the level of charges for 2017-18 for each of the services set out in the attached table to operate from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.**

#### 3.0 BACKGROUND

##### All charges

- 3.1 As set out in the constitution only new proposed charges or charges that were proposed to be increased above or below inflation are considered by members. As such statutory charges have not been included within the report for consideration by members. Those that are increased in line with inflation are approved by the Head of Central services under delegated authority.
- 3.2 Appendix A shows the proposed charges for services that fall outside delegated authority. The table also summarises the financial objective of the current charging policy, the existing charges, the current level of any subsidy and the reason for the recommended charge.
- 3.3 There is a charging policy included in the MTFIS; this should be used as a guideline when setting fees and charges. The current charging policy is under review and will be presented to the Policy Finance and Administration Committee in September, which incorporates the recommendations arising from a recent internal audit report around fees and charges. The fees and charges review has taken on board the proposed changes in the new proposed policy.
- 3.4 As part of the review budget holders are asked to complete a “review of charges form for 2017-18” for each distinct charging area. The aim of this process is to gather background information to the charges being reviewed. A set of completed forms will be available at the meeting.

#### 3.5 Public Conveniences

- 3.5.1 A wider corporate project in relation to public conveniences is currently underway which will include a review of the fees and charges. The charge relating to entrance fees has therefore not been increased at this stage.

#### 3.6 Strategic Sports

- 3.6.1 There are various sports activities provided under the commissioning plan. The activities provided change regularly and the charges are set based on the activity. Therefore a definitive list of activities is not included for approval.

3.6.2 A new charge for FAME Steady Steps Instructor has been introduced in relation to delivering targeted health improvement services on behalf of North West Leicestershire.

### **3.7 Homelessness**

3.7.1 It should be noted that the Private Leased Schemes charges will increase/decrease in line with the Government Policy for rents and will be brought to this Committee in January as part of the HRA budget setting report.

### **3.8 Waterfield Leisure Centre and Melton Sports Village**

3.8.1 Waterfield Leisure Centre and Melton Sports Village fees and charges are under this Committee's remit. Members should note that no charges are being presented in this report in respect of Waterfield Leisure Centre or the Melton Sports Village. SLM manage these sites and propose these fees accordingly. A report will be presented to this Committee in January once evidence of reasonability and commercial assessment of the proposals is provided.

3.8.2 It should also be noted that the Rugby and Football clubs operate on the Melton Sports Village site and the Council generates income through leases.

### **3.9 Wheels To Work**

3.9.1 Wheels to work fees and charges are also under this Committee's remit. However, they are not included within this report as there is a separate report on this agenda under which they are covered.

### **3.10 Free Services**

3.10.1 With the exception of the concessions as highlighted in Appendix A, there are only two services which have been put forward by budget holders as provided free of charge. These are detailed in Appendix B where budget holders have provided an explanation as to why charges have not been introduced.

## **POLICY & CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The fees and charges set out in this report are the ones that do not meet the charging policy set in line with corporate and service objectives; these vary according to the service provided. More detailed explanations on each service's corporate implications can be found on the forms available at the meeting.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL & OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Financial and resource implications have been addressed within paragraph 3. Once approved, these charges will be built into the 2017/18 revenue budget process.

5.2 Some services include chargeable and non chargeable elements. In line with the charging policy, the best estimate of under/over recovery of costs is included in Appendix A. Members may wish to review whether it is appropriate for those services receiving a subsidy to continue to do so.

5.3 Local Government funding continues to be reviewed and there is great uncertainty surrounding funding in later years although almost certainly will be reduced. This is reflected in the Council's MTFs and places a greater onus on the Council to seek to maximise its income from other sources.

## **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 Local Authorities have certain limited freedoms to charge for discretionary services under the Local Government Act 2003. Where appropriate any other relevant legislation is noted within the Appendix A to this report.

## 7.0 **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 There are no direct links to community safety arising from this report.

## 8.0 **EQUALITIES**

8.1 An equalities impact assessment (EIA) has been completed for the charging policy previously agreed by PFA. The EIA will be reviewed in conjunction with the updated charging policy and implications arising will be presented to PFA in September.

## 9.0 **RISKS**

9.1 A possible risk to the Council is that budgeted revenue income may not be achieved if services are not taken up due to any charges increase. Income budgets are regularly monitored and where a downturn in demand is identified appropriate action is taken.

## 10.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 There are no climate change issues directly arising from this report.

## 11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 Budget Holders carried out the review with the assistance of the Service Accountant as required with reference to current budget monitoring protocols.

## 12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards are affected.

Contact Officer: Natasha Bailey  
Date: 17<sup>th</sup> August 2016  
Appendices: Appendix A – Review of Fees and Charges  
Appendix B – Free Services  
Background Papers: Forms for the Review of Charges  
Charging Policy  
Reference: X:\Cttee, Council & Sub Cttees\CSA\2016-17\140916