

RECORD OF DELEGATED DECISION (OFFICER)

1. Decision Reference No.	CEX488
2. Name/Title of Officer	Michelle Howard Director for Housing and Communities (Deputy Chief Executive)
3. Email address of Officer	mhoward@melton.gov.uk
4. Title / Subject Matter:	Fees and charges - meals at Gretton Court 2025/26
5. Type of Decision:	Public
6. Key Decision?	No
7. Decision Taken: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To cap the increase for tenants for meals at Gretton Court at 10% for the period 25/26 2. To increase the charge for meals for non-tenants at Gretton Court (lunch clubs) by 10% for the period 25/26 	
8. Reasons for Decision: <p>When considering meal charge setting, the usual policy position is for the following financial year's charges to be based on the actual costs from the last known full year.</p> <p>Fees and charges for the financial year 2025 / 26 were proposed at Cabinet on 13th November 2024. However, due to an ongoing review of the service provision, there was a query on the Gretton Court meal charge and consequently, the proposed charge for meals for tenants in 25/26 was to be determined by way of a separate delegated decision:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">APPROVED the proposed fees and charges for 2025-26 as outlined in the attached appendices A-E with the exception of those relating to catering at Gretton Court which are delegated to the Director for Housing and Communities in consultation with the Director for Corporate Services and Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Landlord Services.</p> <p>The review of Older Person's Housing and Gretton Court will take place during 2025/26. The outcome of this work will inform service charge setting for 2026/27.</p> <p>In an effort to financially support vulnerable tenants and in recognition of the ongoing period of review of meal provision, it is proposed to cap increase to the meal charge for tenants at 10%. This would result in a reduction in income to the HRA of £5,792.00 per annum. This amount</p>	

would have to be funded as a subsidy from the wider HRA, meaning tenants outside of Gretton Court would effectively pay for meals provided to those residents. The original proposed increase would have meant a cost per week to tenants of £84.62, the proposed cap results in a revised cost to tenants of £81.97.

The increase to charges for non tenants will be increased by 10% in 25/26 which represents the actual increase in costs. The costs will be revisited upon conclusion of a wider review.

9. Authority / Legal Power:

The Director for Housing and Communities was delegated authority to approve the charge for meals at Gretton Court at Cabinet on 13 November 2024:

APPROVED the proposed fees and charges for 2025-26 as outlined in the attached appendices A-E with the exception of those relating to catering at Gretton Court which are delegated to the Director for Housing and Communities in consultation with the Director for Corporate Services and Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Landlord Services.

10. Background Papers attached?

No

11. Alternative options available / rejected:

1. To not increase meal charges – This was rejected due to the substantial reduction in income received which will increase the subsidy from the wider HRA to Gretton Court.
2. To apply the original proposed increase – This was rejected as the increase will impact on the vulnerable tenants of Gretton Court.
3. To increase the meal charge for non residents to offset the lost income from residents meals – Due to the proportion split between the tenant meals and non residents, the required increase to non residents meal would be substantial and not viable.

12. Implications:

Legal	<p>Cabinet of 13 November 2024 delegated authority to the Director for Housing and Communities in consultation with the Director for Corporate Services and Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Landlord Services to approve the charge for meals at Gretton Court.</p> <p>This decision is being taken in accordance with that delegation, and a wider review of the Older Persons Living is also being undertaken.</p> <p>[Legal Approval – 2 April 2025]</p>
Finance	<p>The actual costs of meals in 23/24 increased due a number of factors, most significantly there have been increases in the cost of food (39%) and gas (28%). These are increases that were seen nationally as part of the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>Based on the application of genuine increases in costs at Gretton Court,</p>

	<p>the increase in the meal charge to tenants for 25/26 would be 13.7% and 10% for meals to others (Polish Club, etc). These figures are different due to the proportion of meals changing each year. The number of meals to the Polish Club and others has reduced, meaning they have a lower proportion of the meals and they are not charged for services such as the serving of meals.</p> <p>The decision being taken will have cost implication for the HRA. The cost to the HRA of this change would be £5,792 with tenants with no access to the meal provision at Gretton Court subsidising the service. This is contrary to the Council's fees and charges policy for the HRA but is agreed in recognition of the circumstances surrounding the review of meal provision.</p> <p>[Finance Approval – 11 March 2025]</p>
HR	N/A
13. APPROVAL/SIGN OFF (Do not complete until all implications signed off at Section 12)	
Signature of Decision Maker with authority to sign :	<p>Email approval received</p> <p>Michelle Howard Director for Housing and Communities (Deputy Chief Executive)</p>
Consultation with:	<p>Email notifications received</p> <p>Councillor Pip Allnatt Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Landlord Services</p> <p>Dawn Garton Director for Corporate Services</p>
Date:	7 April 2025