

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Strategy and Resources)

Date: 23rd November 2015

Subject: Fees and Charges

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Background

1. This is the Boards third session of its Inquiry looking at fees and charges. The agreed terms of reference provided the rationale behind the Inquiry. These focused on the belief that a critical examination of fees and charges was an effective way to help ease budget pressures and focus spend and subsidy on the highest priorities and therefore help deliver the Council's Best Council Plan.

Main Issues

2. In October Members held discussions with representatives from Citizens and Communities, Environment and Housing and City Development. It was agreed that at today's meeting representatives from Adult Social Care and Children's Services would be invited to discuss areas where further analysis and consideration into possible new areas for income generation could be undertaken. A summary of their current respective fees and charges are attached as appendix 1. (A larger version has been included in Member's agenda pack for ease of reading). Also attached to the Adult Social Care summary is a report from the Director of Adult Social Services in relation to charging for Non-Residential Adult Social Care Services. Members are asked to provide comment as part of the current consultation process.
3. Scrutiny Board also discussed the Fees and Charges Policy and Best Practice Guidance. Members concluded that the Fees and Charges Policy and Best Practice Guidance was no longer fit for purpose and also noted that the policy had not been reviewed for at least four years. Therefore at its October meeting the Board

requested that a revised version be presented to today's meeting. This is shown as appendix 2.

Recommendations

4. Members are asked to consider the information provided taking particular note of;
 - (i) Current fees and charges
 - (ii) Where further consideration should be given for the introduction of new fee areas
 - (iii) Consider the main aspects of the Adult Social Care charging consultation currently underway and to provide comments as part of the consultation process
 - (iv) to consider the revised Fees and Charges Policy and Best Practice Guidance and provide feedback and suggest improvements.

Background documents¹

None used

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.