

**Response from the meeting of the Cabinet on the
O&S Committee's Comments and the Fees & Charges 2023/24 Working
Group's Comments – 3 November 2022**

Item Number 4 – Fees and Charges 2023/24

Working Group's Comment:

The fees and charges review meeting:

1. Thanked officers for their work on report and responses to the volume of questions that came through.
2. Recognised that Council was dependent on the professional judgement of Officers and Portfolio Holders on Fees & Charges and that there was no perfect solution.
3. Recognised the potential financial challenges faced by the community over the next 12 months and it was keen that services remained accessible to them.
4. Recognised the overall financial challenge for the Council and this was one of three strands of the budget, the others being the Government and Council Tax setting.
5. Recognised the challenges faced with elasticity of demand in that if fees were reduced in one area it may (or may not) result in increased demand that equated to extra income (above that anticipated from the proposed higher fee) from increased usage.
6. Asked that Officers look at opportunities to reduce the impact of the increases in sports facilities by keeping any increase below 15% to increase demand, especially being mindful of the legacy of the Commonwealth Games.
7. Asked Officers and Portfolio Holders to look for additional sources of income around potential sponsorship of works or assets or their maintenance.

Cabinet Response:

The recommendations in the report were approved, along with the addendum, and subject to the addition of the following additional recommendations:

That there is free car parking across all WDC car parks for every Sunday in December 2022. This is with a view to support businesses within the Town Centres in Warwick District by encouraging people into the Town Centres. When this comes to Council it will include:

- (a) details of the anticipated loss of income over this period as a result.
- (b) detail of any proposal to fill that funding gap within the Council.
- (c) If a reserve is used to fund the gap this creates, the Council should also be provided detail of the risk associated with using that reserve (i.e. how will it be replenished, what chance we need that funding before replenished and the constraints imposed on that reserve).
- (d) Details of any monitoring that will be put in place to look at usage of the scheme.

(The above will form a recommendation to Council on 23 November 2022.)

The Cabinet also took an executive decision to open Riverside House Car Park to the public at weekends (without charge) in December 2022 to help increase capacity in the Town over this busy period and encourage more people to shop in Royal Leamington Spa Town Centre. This is not a recommendation to Council and subject to call in.

Item Number 5 – Significant Business Risk Register

Scrutiny Comment:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted the report and thanked officers for their detailed work on it and the responses to the questions that had been asked before the meeting. The Committee asked that:

1. In future reports, the future actions should be dated so as to avoid checking back when it became an action; and
2. In future reports, a short summary be included to provide a general overall of risk to the Council, i.e., generally is the risk increasing or decreasing.

Cabinet Response:

The recommendations in the report were approved.

Items 6 – Future Delivery of the Domestic Pest Control Service

Scrutiny Comment:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee had concerns about the removal of the service and asked that:

1. The service continues to monitor to record and report the number of complaints received; and
2. That non-co-operation by HMO Landlords with enforcement activity is reported to private sector housing so they are aware when licenses are being considered for renewal.

Cabinet Response:

The recommendations in the report were approved.