

Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 1 November 2022 and Fees & Charges Review Meeting 2 November 2022

Summary of Comments made on the Cabinet Agenda for Thursday 3 November 2022

4 Fees & Charges

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.

5 Significant Business Risk Register

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.

7 Future Delivery of the Domestic Pest Control Service

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.