

Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee Addendum

Running Order

Item 7 - Procurement progress

Executive item 4 - Fees & Charges – While the Committee will look at these if there are questions on specific fees or charges these need to be submitted in advance, ideally by 9.00am tomorrow (26 Sept), so that the report author can discuss with the appropriate officers and if necessary they can attend as well.

Executive item 12 - Affordable Homes Purchase – Due to the significant expenditure.

Executive Item 13 - Leper hospital – It is noted that Andy Jones is away and he asked for any questions in advance on this report but none have been received

Executive Item 14 - Catering and events Concessions Contract – It will be useful to know the next stages so what will the business plan look like for the Council and to explain when will Councillors see this?

Executive Item 10(b) – Significant Business Risk Register – It is expected that no officers will present this and either the Leader or another member of the Executive will attend to lead for this item

Item 5 - Neighbourhood Services Review

Item 6- Pump Rooms

Item 9 - Work Programme

Item 3 – Fees and Charges

(1) the justification for keeping planning fees unchanged (with the exception of fees at the pre-application stage) - we see numerous instances on Planning Committee where developers seek amendments to applications (135 Warwick Road Kenilworth being a classic case in point) where clearly the cost of amendments is no bar. Unless I'm mistaken I can't see any explanation for this in the report for Item 3.

With regard to planning application fees, these are set nationally and we have no powers to diverge from the national rates. Having said that planning application fees were increase by 20% in 2018.

2) Leisure fees - why have EA not yet submitted their plans for fee increases? These should be subject to scrutiny by Councillors along with all other fees rather than discretion be given to the Heads of Service to allow increase provided they're within RPI.

The contract with Everyone Active states that they are **entitled to increase the prices for the core products by up to RPI (based on September RPI) each year**. Therefore, their proposed new prices are not available to be included in the Fees and Charges report on the current timescales.

There could be some opportunity to revisit this timeline for future years so that EA prices can be included in the corporate Fees and Charges report.

As stated in 3.7 it is recommended, that provided the changes proposed by Everyone Active to the core products and prices are within the September RPI, that the Heads of Culture and Finance, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holders, can accept the changes.

In reviewing the proposed increases, officers will consider previous years increases to avoid automatic year on year increases in prices.

Page 5 The level of additional income is above the stretch set out to officers of 3%. Are we being over-enthusiastic?

Item 3 Appendix A54 - Charges for Kenilworth well out of line with what's being done elsewhere. They're still lower than Leamington etc but the change is out of line - starting at an increase of 33%. What's the plan? Is it to do away with the historic lower charges that have existed in Kenilworth? On what basis can a 33% increase be considered fair and reasonable?

Page 4 What engagement has been done and when with local businesses? In Kenilworth many of the retailers and smaller shops aren't members of the chamber of trade. Has the Town Council and local voluntary and community sector been consulted about these changes?

We feel that the level of additional income is achievable, given income from previous years, PCN income is up and we will be actively marketing Season Tickets.

Kenilworth increases are in line with what has been discussed over the few years - that Kenilworth should be brought into line with the other towns for consistency. The actual increases are only 10p, 20p or 30p extra for users and the carparks still remain cheaper than Leamington Spa and Warwick, and Sundays are still free across the whole town.