

## EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

*At a meeting of the Executive Board Sub Committee on Thursday, 15 March 2012 in the Board Room - Municipal Building, Widnes*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chairman), Harris and Nelson

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, G. Ferguson, B. Dodd, A. McNamara, S. Murtagh, Y. Sung and P. Wright

Also in attendance: 5 members of the public

### ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE

		<i>Action</i>
ES91	MINUTES	
	<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
	<b>HEALTH AND ADULTS PORTFOLIO</b>	
ES92	ADULT SOCIAL CARE FEES & CHARGES	
	<p>The Sub Committee received a report of the Strategic Director – Adult and Community which outlined proposals for increasing fees and charges for Adult &amp; Community Services from 9<sup>th</sup> April 2012 to coincide with the date of the annual increase in Benefits rates.</p> <p>It was noted that the fees and charges for Social Care Services listed had not been inflated for 2012/13 in line with the decision not to inflate rates paid to external commissioned providers of Domiciliary, Registered Residential and Supporting Services.</p> <p>Members were advised that transport charges had been inflated by 2.0% but were currently subject to review. With regard to Community Warden and Lifeline Services these had not been uplifted but were subject to review, any</p>	

proposed changes would be reported back for approval.

Additionally, pitch charges for Riverview Gypsy site and Warrington Road Transit site had been inflated by 2.0%. However, the water and sewerage charges for Riverview Gypsy Site had not been uplifted due to the existing charge being sufficient to recoup full cost.

It was noted that whilst a number of fees and charges were not increasing, the percentage of a service users disposable income used in the Fairer Charging Assessment was set to increase from 60% to 70% from April 2012. The increase in the percentage of income taken into account in the calculation would result in higher contributions from service users towards meeting the cost of their care.

RESOLVED: That the proposed changes in fees and charges as outlined in the report be approved.

**RESOURCES            PORTFOLIO,            TRANSPORTATION  
PORTFOLIO            AND            PHYSICAL            ENVIRONMENT  
PORTFOLIO**

ES93      REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES

The Sub-Committee received a report which sought approval to increase existing fees and charges generally in line with inflation, although some would be increased by more to reflect the charges in other local authority areas, for the following:-

Environmental Information, requests for information regarding potentially contaminated land, hackney carriage and private hire charges, licence fees (other than hackney carriage and private hire charges), Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Town Police Clauses Act, Highways Act 1980, Highway Searches, Signing, Traffic Signals, Building Act, Street Naming and Numbering, Road Safety, Traffic Data, CCTV Maintenance, closure of Bus Stops for roadworks, New Roads and Street Works Act 1991, Health and Safety Advice to Schools and Academies and miscellaneous.

The Sub-Committee was advised that the increase in fees and charges also included a number of statutory fees that may increase during the coming financial year and Members were asked to agree to these increases as they occurred.

RESOLVED: That the proposed fees and charges as set out in the report be agreed for 2012/13 and referred to the relevant Policy and Performance Boards for information.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

### ES94 INCREASING PEST CONTROL CHARGES

The Sub Committee considered a report which set out proposed increase in charges for Pest Control services in 2012/13. The service currently provides free treatments for the eradication of public health pests such as rats, mice and cockroaches and it was proposed to continue this service free of charge. It was considered the most cost effective approach to securing public health and avoided a costly legal process of establishing land ownership, serving legal notices and obtaining court orders and warrants.

In respect to the charges for the treatment of less serious pests such as wasps, fleas and ants it was proposed to increase charges for 2012/13 as follows:

- Commercial Charges to £94.40 per hour inclusive of VAT;
- Single treatment wasps to £45.50 inclusive of VAT; and
- Treatment of fleas and ants to £50.40 inclusive of VAT.

RESOLVED: That the Sub Committee approve

1. that the pest control service continues to provide treatments for public health pests without charge; and
2. the proposed increase in charges for nuisance pests and commercial pest treatments.

## **PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PORTFOLIO, NEIGHBOURHOOD LEISURE & SPORT PORTFOLIO**

### ES95 OPEN SPACE SERVICES SCALE OF CHARGES

The Sub-Committee received a report which sought approval to increase existing fees and charges for the following: Allotments, Cemeteries & Crematorium, Sports Pitch Hire and Educational Activities. A copy of the proposed charges had been previously circulated to members.

In respect of an allotment plot the current charge was £31.00. The charge included all services (water supply and rates) and was currently subsidised by Council revenue budgets. In order for the allotments to be provided without a subsidy, a fee of £80 needed to be charged. It was proposed that the new charge would come into effect in 2012/13 with plot holders not having to pay the new costs until January 2013. It was noted that the cost could be paid by Direct Debit on a monthly basis.

With regard to Cemeteries and Crematorium, the proposed increases would reduce the current subsidy from Council budgets. Halton's charges would still, in most instances, be less than neighbouring local authorities.

In addition it was proposed that the hire of an adult sports pitch would be increased from £400 to £500. It was noted that following the £100 increase the cost would still be cheaper than neighbouring Liverpool City and Junior Sports pitch hire would remain free. The charge for Adult Baseball Field annual hire would also increase from £1360 to £1500.

RESOLVED: That the charges as proposed be approved.

ES96 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- (1) whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- (2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press

and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information will be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES**

#### **ES97 ADOPTION SUPPORT CONTRACT**

The Sub Committee were advised on the tender process and subsequent award of an Adoption Support Contract. The Adoption Support service provided direct support for young people and adults living in Halton, Knowsley and Cheshire West & Chester local authorities. The contract was for 2 years plus an option of a further one year extension. It was noted that the successful tenderer was After Adoption Yorkshire at a total contract cost of £191,295. The full potential three year contract breakdown for the three local authorities was detailed in the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

**MINUTES ISSUED: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

**CALL IN: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board Sub Committee may be called in no later than 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

*Meeting ended at 10.31 a.m.*