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## **EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2011**

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**COSP.95/11    BUDGET 2012/13**

### **(c) Review of Charges 2012/13**

- **Local Environment**

Report LE.23/11 was submitted, setting out the proposed fees and charges for the services falling within the remit of the Local Environment Directorate.

The Executive had on 22 November 2011 (EX.141/11) decided that the report be noted and referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Panels for their consideration.

Members asked for an update to be circulated on the water charges issues at the Council's allotments and for an explanation as to why the Talkin Tarn charges had not been increased.

RESOLVED – That report LE.23/11 be welcomed.

- **Community Engagement**

Report CD.25/11 was submitted, setting out the proposed fees and charges for the services falling within the remit of the Community Engagement Directorate.

The Executive had on 22 November 2011 (EX.142/11) decided that the report be noted and referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Panels for their consideration.

#### *Hostel Service*

Mr Gerrard explained that the charges detailed for hostels did not include a support element as it was funded through Cumbria Supporting People. The support service charge costs were being reviewed as part of the same exercise. The charges had been increased in line with the corporate charging policy reflecting an inflationary increase of 2%. This would result in an income of £445,800 in 2012/13.

Mr Gerrard explained that due to the changes in the Supporting People contract the Council could only levy a charge for basic rent and communal areas and not for care.

A Member asked if a new provider would be duty bound to use the Council's accommodation. There was concern that a change to the use in facilities would reduce the income from hostel charges.

Mr Gerrard responded that some services could be provided away from the accommodation to make a clear distinction between services. A new provider would not be duty bound to use the Council's facilities and the changes may be a good opportunity for the new resource centre as a hub for the supporting people contract.

RESOLVED – That the observations of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel, as outlined above, be conveyed to the Executive.