

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
BUSINESS AND TRANSFORMATION SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON 1 DECEMBER 2020**

BTSP.73/20 BUDGET 2021/22

(c) Review of Charges

(i) Community Services

The Deputy Chief Executive presented Report CS.30/20 and addendum setting out the proposed fees and charges for 2021/22 relating to those services falling within the Community Services Directorate.

The charges highlighted within the report would result in an anticipated income level of £2,518,400 against the MTFP target of £3,006,000 which represented a shortfall of £487,600 against the MTFP target.

The Executive had on 9 November 2020 (EX.123/20) received the report and resolved:

“That the Executive:

1. Had reviewed the proposed charges as set out in the body of Report CS.30/20, the Addendum and relevant appendices with effect from 1 April 2021, noting the impact those would have on income generation as detailed within the report.
2. Made the report of proposed charges and the Addendum available to relevant Scrutiny Panels for their review and comment.”

A Member raised concerns regarding the impact of some of the waste services charges on households that were struggling financially. He asked the Executive to look at the charges and consider if there would be any scope for flexibility to assist those that could not afford the charges.

The Member also asked that the Executive reconsider the introduction of a pest control charge for dealing with rats. This was a key public health area and he asked the Executive to consider the impact of people being unable to meet the pest control costs.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Charges Review report 2021/20 – Community Services (CS.30/20) be received.

2) That the Executive be asked to give further consideration to the introduction of the pest control charge for dealing with rats and the impact it would have if households could not meet the charge.

3) That the Executive be asked to look at introducing some flexibility for waste service charges to assist households that were struggling financially.

(ii) Economic Development

The Corporate Director of Economic Development submitted Report ED.38/20 setting out the proposed fees and charges for areas falling within the responsibility of the Economic Development Directorate.

The proposed charges in relation to Planning Services included Development Control income; Building Control income; and Local Plan income.

Acceptance of the charges highlighted within the report would result in an anticipated level of income of £595,200 against the Medium Term Financial Plan target of £637,000.

The Executive had on 9 November 2020 (EX.124/20) received the report and resolved:

“That the Executive agreed for consultation the charges, as set out in Report ED.38/20 and accompanying Appendices, with effect from 1 April 2021; noting the impact those would have on income generation as detailed within the report.”

RESOLVED – That Charges Review report 2021/22 – Economic Development (ED.38/20) be received.

(iii) Governance and Regulatory Services

The Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services submitted Report GD.48/20 concerning the proposed fees and charges for areas falling within the responsibility of the Governance and Regulatory Services Directorate.

The report set out the proposed charges relative to Environmental Health and Housing; Homeless, Prevention and Accommodation Services; and Legal Services. The introduction of the proposed charges was forecast to generate income of £845,300 in 2021/22 as summarised in the table at Section 5.9.1 of the report.

The Executive had on 9 November 2020 (EX.125/20) received the report and resolved:

“That the Executive agreed for consultation the charges as detailed within Report GD.48/20 and accompanying Appendices, with effect from 1 April 2021; noting the impact those would have on income generation as detailed within the report.”

RESOLVED – That the Review of Charges 2021/22 report – Governance and Regulatory Services (GD.48/20) be received.

(iv) Licensing

The Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services submitted Report GD.54/20 setting out the proposed fees and charges for areas falling within the responsibility of the Licensing Section of the Governance and Regulatory Services Directorate. The Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services advised Members that the Regulatory Panel had responsibility for determining the licence fees, with the exception of those under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013, which fell to the Executive.

The Executive had on 9 November 2020 (EX.126/20) received the report and agreed:

“That the Executive:

1. Noted the charges which were considered by the Regulatory Panel on 14 October 2020, with the exception of charges under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013.
2. Approved the charges detailed at Appendix A under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 with effect from 1 April 2021..”

RESOLVED – That the Review of Charges 2021/22 - Licensing Report (GD.54/20) be received.