
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2021

HWSP.79/21 INDIVIDUAL CHARGES REVIEW - COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted report CS.37/21 setting out the proposed fees and charges for 2022/23 relating to those services falling within the Community Services Directorate. The report proposed a varied approach to the charges for the use of the city centre. To encourage the use of commercial pitches, pavement cafes and Farmers Markets it was proposed to maintain the rates at the current rate and the remainder of charges would increase by 3%. It was also proposed that 10p be added to all tariffs across all car parks and an increase of 10p per day to permit prices.

Details of the other proposed charges in relation to City Centre usage by external organisations; events; digital banner; Old Fire Station; allotments; use of parks; sports pitches; Talkin Tarn; Bereavement Services; Waste Services and Garage charges were also provided.

The original 2021/22 budgets and 2022/23 forecast income levels based upon the current charge structure and forecast volume were as detailed in the table in section 11 of the report. The charges highlighted within the report would result in an anticipated level of income of £2,810,500 against the MTFP target of £3,196,200. That represented a shortfall of £385,700 against the MTFP target.

The Executive had considered the report at their meeting on 22 November 2021 (EX.129/21 referred) and resolved:

"That the Executive:

1. Had reviewed the proposed charges as set out in the body of Report CS.37/21 and relevant appendices with effect from 1 April 2022, noting the impact those would have on income generation as detailed within the report.
2. Made the report of proposed charges available to relevant Scrutiny Panels for their review and comment."

In considering the report Members raised the following comments and questions:

- A Member commented that, in their view the £30 charge for streaming a funeral service was expensive.

The Health and Wellbeing Manager advised that the streaming service was provided by a third party who levied the charge, the Council had simply passed that cost on. Benchmarking data with other Cumbrian local authorities indicated that the cost of the service was comparatively reasonable in Carlisle.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder stated that there were various reasons which may prevent a person attending a funeral service, he was of the view that the streaming charge was reasonable.

- What was the rationale for adding a further daily watersports permit charge at Talkin Tarn.

The Health and Wellbeing Manager responded that the existing charge applied to larger water craft, given the rise in popularity of paddleboarding it was felt that a new, smaller charge for

paddleboarders was appropriate.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager responded to the question from the Chair on the use of electric vehicles in the Council's refuse and recycling fleet, noting that the Council's fleet comprised the most environmentally friendly vehicles (Euro 6) available. Replacing the largest vehicles in the fleet was currently cost prohibitive.

RESOLVED - That the Panel had received the Individual Charges Review Community Services (CS.37/21).

HWSP.80/21 INDIVIDUAL CHARGES REVIEW - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Corporate Director of Economic Development submitted report ED.39/21 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; Building Control Discretionary Charges; Shop Mobility and Investment and Policy Income.

Acceptance of the charges highlighted within the report would result in an anticipated level of income of £656,000 against the Medium Term Financial Plan target of £656,000.

The Executive had considered the matter at their meeting on 22 November 2021 (EX.131/21) and resolved:

"That the Executive agreed the charges, for consultation, as set out in Report ED.39/21 and accompanying Appendices, with effect from 1 April 2022; noting the impact those would have on income generation as detailed within the report."

RESOLVED - That the Panel had received the Individual Charges Review - Economic Development (ED.39/21)

HWSP.81/21 INDIVIDUAL CHARGES - GOVERNANCE AND REGULATORY SERVICES

The Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services submitted report GD.55/21 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 £802,800 in 2022/23 as summarised in the table at paragraph 5.11.1 of the report.

The Executive had considered the matter at their meeting on 22 November 2021 (EX.131/21 referred) and resolved:

"That the Executive agreed for consultation the charges as detailed within Report GD.55/21 and accompanying Appendices, with effect from 1 April 2022; noting the impact those would have on income generation as detailed within the report."

In response to a question from a Member regarding the competitiveness of the Pest Control Service with commercial providers, the Principal Health and Housing Officer responded that the service was less costly than a number of other providers.

RESOLVED - That the Panel had received the Individual Charges - Governance and Regulatory Services (GD.55/21)

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2021

EGSP.74/21 INDIVIDUAL CHARGES REVIEW - COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Services Individual Charges Review report (CS.37/21) was submitted setting out the proposed fees and charges for 2022/23 relating to those services falling within the Community Services Directorate. The report proposed a varied approach to the charges for the use of the city centre. To encourage the use of commercial pitches, pavement cafes and Farmers Markets it was proposed to maintain the rates at the current rate and the remainder of charges would increase by 3%. It was also proposed that 10p be added to all tariffs across all car parks and an increase of 10p per day to permit prices.

Details of the other proposed charges in relation to City Centre usage by external organisations; events; digital banner; Old Fire Station; allotments; use of parks; sports pitches; Talkin Tarn; Bereavement Services; Waste Services and Garage charges were also provided.

The original 2021/22 budgets and 2022/23 forecast income levels based upon the current charge structure and forecast volume were as detailed in the table in section 11 of the report. The charges highlighted within the report would result in an anticipated level of income of £2,810,500 against the MTFP target of £3,196,200. That represented a shortfall of £385,700 against the MTFP target.

The Executive had considered the report at their meeting on 22 November 2021 (EX.129/21 referred) and resolved:

"That the Executive:

1. Had reviewed the proposed charges as set out in the body of Report CS.37/21 and relevant appendices with effect from 1 April 2022, noting the impact those would have on income generation as detailed within the report.
2. Made the report of proposed charges available to relevant Scrutiny Panels for their review and comment."

In considering the report Members raised the following comments and questions:

- A Member understood the difficulty in setting car parking charges and asked that the charge for the first hour of car parking, across all Council car parks (including Talkin Tarn), be frozen and that the proposed increase be added to the charges after the first hour.

The Neighbourhood Services Manger set out the background of the charges increase which equated to 10p added to each tariff.

- The issue of a limited number car parking permits at Talkin Tarn was raised and the Executive was asked to carry out a review of the permit policy to make it less restricted and available to more people.

RESOLVED - 1) That the Individual Charges Review - Community Services report (CS.37/21) had been scrutinised by the Panel.

2) That the Executive consider:

- Freezing the car parking charges for the first hour of use across all Carlisle City Council car

parcs and introduce the proposed increase from the second hour;

- That a review of the car park permit policy for Talkin Tarn car park be undertaken with the goal of increasing flexibility and the number of permits available.

EGSP.75/21 INDIVIDUAL CHARGES REVIEW - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Corporate Director of Economic Development submitted report ED.39/21 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; Building Control Discretionary Charges; Shop Mobility and Investment and Policy Income.

Acceptance of the charges highlighted within the report would result in an anticipated level of income of £656,000 against the Medium Term Financial Plan target of £656,000.

The Executive had considered the matter at their meeting on 22 November 2021 (EX.131/21) and resolved:

"That the Executive agreed the charges, for consultation, as set out in Report ED.39/21 and accompanying Appendices, with effect from 1 April 2022; noting the impact those would have on income generation as detailed within the report."

RESOLVED - That the Individual Charges Review - Economic Development report (ED.39/21) be noted.

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS AND TRANSFORMATION SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2021

BTSP.90/21 BUDGET 2022/23

(c) Individual Charges Review - Community Services

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted report CS.37/21 setting out the proposed fees and charges for 2022/23 relating to those services falling within the Community Services Directorate. The report proposed a varied approach to the charges for the use of the city centre. To encourage the use of commercial pitches, pavement cafes and Farmers Markets it was proposed to maintain the rates at the current rate and the remainder of charges would increase by 3%. It was also proposed that 10p be added to all tariffs across all car parks and an increase of 10p per day to permit prices.

Details of the other proposed charges in relation to City Centre usage by external organisations; events; digital banner; Old Fire Station; allotments; use of parks; sports pitches; Talkin Tarn; Bereavement Services; Waste Services and Garage charges were also provided.

The original 2021/22 budgets and 2022/23 forecast income levels based upon the current charge structure and forecast volume were as detailed in the table in section 11 of the report. The charges highlighted within the report would result in an anticipated level of income of £2,810,500 against the MTFP target of £3,196,200. That represented a shortfall of £385,700 against the MTFP target.

The Executive had considered the matter at their meeting on 20 November 2021 (EX.129/21 referred) and resolved:

"That the Executive:

1. Had reviewed the proposed charges as set out in the body of Report CS.37/21 and relevant appendices with effect from 1 April 2022, noting the impact those would have on income generation as detailed within the report.
2. Made the report of proposed charges available to relevant Scrutiny Panels for their review and comment."

In considering the report Members submitted the following questions and comments:

- A Member drew the Panel's attention to the resolution of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel (EGSP.74/21 referred) which asked the Executive to consider:
 - "- Freezing the car parking charges for the first hour of use across all Carlisle City Council car parks and introduce the proposed increase from the second hour;
 - That a review of the car park permit policy for Talkin Tarn car park be undertaken with the goal of increasing flexibility and the number of permits available."

The Member asked the Panel to endorse the recommendations, the Panel agreed.

- A Member asked why the Council reduced enforcement charges if the charge was paid quickly.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager stated that the Council had to take enforcement action that was reasonable and proportionate. The reduced penalty for early settlement was

discount had been effective in ensuring penalties charges were paid and prevented further action being taken. The Member asked how many penalties charges were paid early and the Neighbourhood Services Manager agreed to provide a written response.

RESOLVED - 1) That the Panel had received and commented on the Individual Charges review - Community Services (CS.37/21)

2) That the Panel endorsed the recommendation from the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel (EGSP.74/21) and ask that the Executive consider:

- Freezing the car parking charges for the first hour of use across all Carlisle City Council car parks and introduce the proposed increase from the second hour;
- That a review of the car park permit policy for Talkin Tarn car park be undertaken with the goal of increasing flexibility and the number of permits available.

3) That the Neighbourhood Services Manager provide the Panel with information on the number of penalties that were paid early and received a discount.

(d) Individual Charges Review - Economic Development

The Corporate Director of Finance and Resources presented report ED.39/21 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; Building Control Discretionary Charges; Shop Mobility and Investment and Policy Income.

Acceptance of the charges highlighted within the report would result in an anticipated level of income of £656,000 against the Medium Term Financial Plan target of £656,000.

The Executive had considered the matter at their meeting on 22 November 2021 (EX.131/21 referred) and agreed the charges, for consultation, as set out in Report ED.39/21 and accompanying Appendices, with effect from 1 April 2022; noting the impact those would have on income generation as detailed within the report.

RESOLVED - That the Individual Charges Review - Economic Development (ED.39/21) be received.

(e) Individual Charges Review - Governance and Regulatory Services

The Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services submitted report GD.55/21 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 £802,800 in 2022/23 as summarised in the table at paragraph 5.11.1 of the report.

The Executive considered the matter at their meeting on 22 November 2021 (EX.131/21 referred) and agreed for consultation the charges as detailed within Report GD.55/21 and accompanying Appendices, with effect from 1 April 2022; noting the impact those would have on income generation as detailed within the report.

The Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reminded the Panel that the previous year's budget discussions had resulted in no charge for domestic rat treatments, the position had not changed and there would be no charge introduced in 2022/23.

In response to a question regarding the new legislation for food labelling, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services said he thought it was the County Council (Trading Standards) that dealt with food labelling but if there was an opportunity to recover costs for matters which it was responsible for then the Council would seek to do so via a report to the Executive.

RESOLVED - That the Individual Charges Review - Governance and Regulatory Services (GD.55/21) be received.

(f) Individual Charges Review – Licensing

The Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services submitted report GD.82/21 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 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 considered the matter at their meeting on 22 November 2021 (EX.132/21 referred) and resolved:

"That the Executive:

1. Noted the charges which were considered by the Regulatory Panel on 27 October 2021.
2. Approved the charges, for consultation, under the Scrap metal Dealers Act 2013 with effect from 1 April 2022."

RESOLVED - That the Individual Charges Review - Licensing (GD.82/21) be received.