
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2010

ROSP.109/10 SUMMARY OF CHARGES REVIEW

a) Local Environment

Report CS.28/10 was submitted setting out the proposed fees and charges for areas falling within the responsibility of the Local Environment Directorate. The proposed charges related to income from Highways Services, Car Parking, Sports Pitches, Environmental Protection, Bulky Waste Collections, Dog Policy and Bereavement Services.

The Executive had on 22 November 2010 (EX.181/10) received the report and agreed for consultation the proposed charges, as set out in Report CS.28/10 and relevant Appendices (and subject to the amendments highlighted above), with effect from 1 April 2011; and noted the impact of those charges on income generation, as detailed within the report.

Members raised the following comments and questions:

- *The report proposed that the charge for bulky waste collection be simplified and that a uniform charge be applied to all bulky household items collected by the Council. Had the introduction of charges for bulky waste impacted on fly tipping and had there been any projections prepared for how a uniform charge may affect fly tipping and the cost to the Council?*
- *The proposal to charge for purple waste sacks would mean people were being charged for waste collection purely by virtue of the kind of house they lived in. Members felt that it was inappropriate to charge the 5,800 residents for the purple sacks when the rest of the City received their bins for free.*

The Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder informed the Panel that the provision of purple sacks cost the Council £30,000 per annum and if this saving was not made the money would have to be saved elsewhere.

Members were very concerned by the proposal and felt it was not just a financial decision but felt that the principle was wrong to charge those residents who lived in terrace houses for waste collection and were obliged to use sacks..

RESOLVED – That the Panel supported the views of the Environment and Economy Panel and urged the Executive not to discontinue the provision of purple sacks.

b) Community Engagement

The Assistant Director (Resources) (Mr Mason) submitted report CD.21/10 setting out the proposed fees and charges for the services falling within the remit of the Community Engagement Directorate. The proposed charges related to income from Tullie House and Hostels.

The Executive had on 22 November 2010 (EX.182/10) received the report and forwarded it to Overview and Scrutiny Panels for consideration as part of the 2011/12 budget process.

c) Economic Development

The Assistant Director (Resources) (Mr Mason) submitted report ED.37/10 setting out the proposed fees and charges for the services falling within the remit of the Economic Development Directorate. The proposed charges related to income from the Enterprise Centre, Assembly Rooms, Planning, Development Control and Building Control.

The Executive had on 22 November 2010 (EX.183/10) received the report and forwarded it to Overview and Scrutiny Panels for consideration as part of the 2011/12 budget process.

Members raised the following comments and questions:

- *The report stated that the Enterprise Centre would generate a miscellaneous income of £24,000 in 2011/12, but in reality they made an overall loss.*

Mr Mason agreed to provide Members with a written response..

The Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder explained that the running costs of the Centre outweighed the rental income. He added that he supported the reason for the Enterprise Centre but he felt that the building was not appropriate for the service that was being provided.

Dr Gooding added that a review of the Enterprise Centre was an action in the Corporate Plan and the Assistant Director (Economic Development) was undertaking the review.

RESOLVED – The Panel welcomed the review of the Enterprise Centre.

d) Governance

Report GD.62/10 was submitted setting out the proposed fees and charges for areas falling within the remit of the Governance Directorate.

The proposed charges in respect of Electoral Registers; Room Lettings/Minute Books and Local Land Searches, the acceptance of which would result in an anticipated level of income of £116,966 in 2011/12.

The Executive had on 22 November 2010 (EX.184/10) received the report and forwarded it to Overview and Scrutiny Panels for consideration as part of the 2010/11 budget process.

At the request of Members Mr Mason agreed to prepare a written response on why the City Council fee for Land Charges was higher than other authorities and the reasons for the shortfall for Land Charges,

e) Licensing

Report GD.51/10 was submitted for information setting out the fees and charges for areas falling within the responsibility of the Licensing Section of the Governance Directorate. The Regulatory Panel had on 13 October 2010 approved the fees.

The Executive had on 22 November 2010 (EX.185/10) noted that the Licensing Charges had been approved by the Regulatory Panel on 13 October 2010.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.