

## **CHARGING POLICY**

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**Portfolio:** Finance

**Wards Affected:** All

### **Purpose of the Report:**

To present the draft Charging Policy for approval.

### **Recommendation:**

Cabinet to recommend to Council that the Charging Policy at Appendix A is approved.

## **1 Requirement**

- 1.1 It is good practice to have a Charging Policy to help ensure a consistent and fair approach to setting fees and charges.

## **2 Draft Charging Policy**

- 2.1 The attached draft Charging Policy has been drafted to provide a concise framework in accordance with current guidance.

- 2.2 It proposes 3 key principles.

- Principle 1 - All fees and charges should aim to cover the full cost of the service.
- Principle 2 - Where appropriate, consideration should be given to establishing a pricing structure that caters for people on low incomes.
- Principle 3 - Where possible charges should be collected in advance of service delivery.

## **3 Other options**

- 3.1 Cabinet has the ability to make changes to the draft Charging Policy, or indeed decide not to adopt a Charging Policy.

## **4 Issues and risks**

- 4.1 **Resource Implications** – The policy will help ensure that service users should pay the full cost for discretionary services, rather than the general council taxpayer (Principle 1).

- 4.2 **Legal Implications** – None.

- 4.3 **Equality Implications** – The policy permits differential charging to reflect equality and service access issues (Principle 2).

- 4.4 **Environmental Impact** – No direct implications.

- 4.5 **Crime and Disorder** – No direct implications.

- 4.6 **Risks** – There is a risk that a Charging Policy will constrain the Council's ability to change fees and charges to meet changing needs. However it has been drafted to give flexibility to vary charges as and when required.

## **5 Recommendation**

- 5.1 Cabinet to recommend to Council that the Charging Policy at Appendix A is approved.

## **Background papers**

None

BDC