

Performance and Finance Select Committee

5 December 2019

Review of Fees and Charges 2020/21 – Focus for Scrutiny

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

The discretionary fees and charges of the Council are reviewed every year to ensure they continue to reflect the priorities in the West Sussex Plan and are aligned to support the Council achieving its revenue budget. The general rule is that fees and charges will increase in-line with the Retail Price Index (RPI) as at September of the preceding year. This year the RPI increase is 2.4%.

The draft decision report attached sets out the proposed changes to fees and charges to be implemented in 2020/21. This forms part of the budget setting process to support the Council achieving its revenue budget. A review of fees and charges was agreed as one of the strategic budget decisions considered at Cabinet in July 2019.

The focus for scrutiny

The Committee is asked to scrutinise the fees and charges decision report, attached at Appendix A. Key areas for scrutiny include:

1. That the proposed changes to fees and charges remain in-line with the West Sussex Plan priorities;
2. That the changes meet the objectives of cost recovery, meet other financial or policy objectives or a policy decision has been taken to subsidise a service;
3. That the changes are reasonable; and
4. That the impact of changes have been considered, with any unintended consequences, and mitigations to address these, identified.

The Chairman will summarise the output of the debate for consideration by the Committee.

Details

- 1.1 The background, context and detail of the changes are set out in the attached draft decision report. The report also sets out the financial implications of the changes, risks and other options considered.
- 1.2 The Equality, Human Rights, Social Value, Sustainability and Crime and Disorder Reduction Assessments are also outlined within sections 8 – 10 of the report.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Review of Fees and Charges 2020-21 draft decision report

Background Papers

None