

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017

REFERENCE FROM ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE: 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2017

“ VISIBLE SERVICES AND TRANSPORT – PROPOSED FEES AND  
CHARGES FOR 2017/2018 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 was tabled at the meeting for Members' information, it being noted that Cabinet had referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.

The report detailed proposed changes in service charges for functions managed by Visible Services and Transport for the financial year 2017/18 and the proposed charges for services were set out in the appendices attached to the report at Appendix 1 – Waste Management and Cleansing, Appendix 2 – Highways, Engineering and Transportation, Appendix 3 – Leisure and Appendix 4 – Porthkerry Cemetery. Committee was advised by the Head of Service that the fee increases outlined in the report assisted in reducing the budgetary pressures in the Directorate.

Of note was the fact that all income from fees, including grant income was being reviewed by the Business Transformation Project which was underway for Visible Services and Transport. As in previous years, to encourage greater commercial recycling, it was proposed that the Waste Management and Cleansing charges remain unchanged. It was also being proposed to retain the current 2016/17 peak and off peak car parking and quarter charges to all coastal parks and to introduce a charge for the return of illegal and unauthorised banners or similar placard boards from public highways at a cost of £65 per banner. It was further proposed to introduce a £15 per key charge for the replacement of lost or damaged alley gate keys and that all other charges in the Highways, Engineering and Transportation area be changed by the amount shown in Appendix 2 to the report.

For Leisure Services, Appendix 3 proposed the majority of charges in leisure be subject to small charging increases, and at Porthkerry Cemetery, Appendix 4, the charges proposed were those put forward by Barry Town Council who managed the Cemetery on the Council's behalf. Committee was advised that the rates were in line with those charged by Barry Town Council at their cemetery in Barry. The Head of Service took the opportunity to refer Members to Appendices 1 to 3 in relation to proposed increases in charges for filming throughout the Vale.

Members supported the increases in relation to filming, advising that in many instances some areas where filming took place became a significant inconvenience

to local residents as well as the fact that the Authority should be taking a more proactive approach due to the fact that the sums currently being charged were significantly low to what they should be in their view. However, on the whole, it was noted that in general from experience and comments received the film crews in the area were very polite and very aware of the issues facing local residents. However, Members commented that the charging policy should reflect the scale of the operation that was being undertaken.

In referring to charges for skip hire, again Members considered that these should be reviewed and increased in line with what the market would be prepared to bear and in particular consideration should be given to charging on a daily basis. Aware that for some aspects Temporary Traffic Orders were required and the cost of such was borne by the Authority, these issues should be taken into consideration when charging regimes were being considered.

It was unanimously agreed that the Authority should definitely consider reviewing charges in line with what the market could bear, however, following discussion it was accepted that a significant review and research undertaken to what other Local Authorities charged would not be able to be put in place by 1<sup>st</sup> April and the fees and charges were required to be in place by that date.

Following a query as to why there was no increase in coastal car parking charges, Members were informed that the Council was keeping an eye on what other resorts did and it was important to encourage people to use the facilities and visit the area for the economy.

With regard to sports fees, the Director was confident that the charges could be met by the users but agreed to provide further explanation to users on the charges and what the money would be used for in the future. It was also suggested that a number of the figures be rounded up or down prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April or at least this be considered for future fees and charges. A Member considered that it would indeed be more appropriate to make the charges more user friendly and easier for accountancy purposes.

A number of Members agreed that the charges for the Vale of Glamorgan for illegal banners on public highways was necessary with Committee being advised that the costs for which, would be covered during waste collection rounds. The Head of Service was satisfied that profit could be made from such charges without affecting the rate payer.

Following full consideration of the report, it was subsequently

#### RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the charging and fee proposals for Visible Services and Transport as set out at Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the report be agreed for 2017/18.

(2) T H A T, notwithstanding recommendation (1) above, a full review of all fees and charges be undertaken as outlined within the comments above, having particular regard to what the market would be prepared to bear.

(3) T H A T prior to consideration by Cabinet, the review referred to in Resolution (2) above be also referred to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

(4) T H A T the recommendations above be referred to Cabinet for consideration and approval.

#### Reasons for recommendations

(1) In order that the fees and charges can be agreed for 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017.

(2) In order to consider new fees and charges pertaining to what the market could bear.

(3) For the Committee to consider in detail prior to any approval by Cabinet.

(4) To obtain Cabinet approval for the charging and fees proposed for 2017/18.”