

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2020

REFERENCE FROM CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH, 2020

“ VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL – PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES  
FOR 2020/21 (MD) –

The Head of Policy and Business Transformation outlined the report, stating that this was part of the Reshaping Services programme and Income Generation and Commercial Opportunities Strategy. The report had been produced in conjunction with the Head of Finance. Producing a composite report had been identified as best practice by CIPFA and had been produced in order to implement the fees and charges detailed within the report from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020. The Head of Policy and Business Transformation stated that next time the proposed fees and charges report would be produced in order to be considered alongside budget proposals. The report set out proposed fees and charges for a range of services offered by the Council. He added that the proposed fees and charges contained within the report and appendices reflected an inflationary increase of 1.7% rounded to the nearest 10p with specific details of notable variations from this being provided within the body of the report and appendices. He asked the Committee to consider the contents of the report and appendices.

A Committee Member stated that it was good to see an overall combined report on these issues. However, he noted that the use of CPI here contrasted with the recent Council Tax raise which was increasing approximately three times the rate of CPI. He had no fundamental disagreement with the report and going forward, both he and the Chairman suggested that the Council should look at the benchmarking of fees and charges and this should be looked at in a subsequent report.

Another Committee Member raised a query around the Neighbourhood Services section in the report and the related appendix concerning charges for Neighbourhood Services and the proposed increase in line with inflation. He wanted to highlight the charges around the use of football pitches and facilities and their impact on local football, in particular senior football, where approximately 12 teams had been lost in the Vale of Glamorgan league since last year. He was concerned that a further rise in charges – however small – could impact the league further and illustrated this by the fact that the loss of 12 teams previously had amounted to approximately £6,000 in lost charges to the Council. This also had the wider impact of potentially harming local grass roots football – even by the implementation of relatively small rises in charges.

The Leader responded to his concerns by stating that he would ask officers to look at a comparison of income derived from this sport over recent years and the number of teams so as to inform decision making at Cabinet.

The Chairman raised a query around charges for collection of bulky household goods and domestic waste which ran between £15-£20. He asked about the impact of this in terms of fly tipping and whether fly tipping remained a large scale problem. The Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport replied that statistics concerning fly tipping would be going to the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee in the near future. She added that there had been some additional fly tipping but this had been balanced by an increase in prosecutions. The majority of fly tipping tended to involve less bulky items such as furniture, rather it was smaller 'black bag' items. The costs charged for removal of bulky items at most covered costs only. There was also now an increase in re-use sites or shops, to which the Chairman asked if more help could be given to advertise such re-use services. The Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport replied that the Vale of Glamorgan already did some work around advertising and encouraging re-use schemes, citing a recent bric-a-brac session in Rhoose. Advertising for this was done through the Vale of Glamorgan Council website as well as the local community, although she noted that more work could be done in this area.

Another Councillor, on the issue of reusing bulky items, referred to the potential set up of a re-use shop that could stock such items. The Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport replied that the Vale of Glamorgan Council would be looking into setting this up but currently the priority was the resource recovery facility and also the need to balance such measures against stopping various charity shops within the Vale receiving much needed items for sale and charity support.

A Committee Member stated that in future better coding and identification of bulky items would be useful as it seemed there had been an increase in bulky items being abandoned as a result of fly tipping. He had identified a number of such fly tipping incidents within his Ward which he had reported to the Council. The Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport replied that it was difficult to identify who had fly tipped when it was a sofa / fridge or similar bulky item. However, black bags often contained personal details of the fly tippers and prosecutions were therefore easier. She also referred to the Council's use of social media in order to highlight prosecutions and to make people aware of the issues around fly tipping.

It was

**RECOMMENDED –**

- (1) T H A T the proposals for amendments to fees and charges and associated policy and process changes as set out in the report and associated appendices be noted.
- (2) T H A T the comments of the Scrutiny Committee be referred to Cabinet to consider when making their final determination.

(3) T H A T it be noted that a further report will be presented to Cabinet in relation to Tranche 2, single use sports ground project during 2020/21.

(4) T H A T a subsequent report to look at benchmarking of fees and charges be produced.

(5) T H A T a further report be produced looking at the comparison of income derived from Football over recent years and the number of teams so as to inform decision making at Cabinet.

#### Reasons for recommendations

(1) In view of the content of the report and appendices.

(2) To enable the Committee's views to be considered by Cabinet when making a decision on fees and charges for services for 2020/21.

(3) To provide an update on the single use sports grounds project.

(4) To provide a benchmark of fees and charges.

(5) To look at the comparison of income derived from Football over recent years and the number of teams so as to inform decision making at Cabinet.”