

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 22ND FEBRUARY 2021

REFERENCE FROM CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 11TH FEBRUARY 2021

“ VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL – PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES
FOR 2021/2022 (MD) –

The Scrutiny Committee was requested to consider the content of the report and appendices and to refer any comments to Cabinet for its consideration when deciding on the level of fees and charges for the Vale of Glamorgan for 2021-2022.

The proposed fees and charges contained in the report and associated appendices reflected an inflationary increase of 0.7% (October 2020 CPI) rounded to the nearest 10p. Some fees and charges had increased higher than inflation, some had remained the same or decreased to reflect the take up of services and the cost of delivery and the rationale for doing so was outlined in the body of the report.

The Head of Service referred to a typographical error at Appendix 4(b) to the report in respect of the Telecare VCAS monitoring fee which he stated should read as £1.24 and not £1.30 which had been corrected in the papers for Cabinet on 22nd February.

The Chairman enquired as to why football pitch charges were being increased when demand appeared to be decreasing in light of COVID 19 and requested that a future report be prepared to compare income levels and usage. The Chairman also enquired if income received in localities could be utilised to improve services in those localities, referring by way of an example to income received for filming in Victoria Road being used to improve the infrastructure.

During consideration of the report, Councillor Dr. Johnson requested clarification on the provision of café style highway licences and the take up in light of recent increases in applications. Councillor Dr. Johnson also agreed with the suggestion for a report to look at income levels and usage to consider the rationale for increased fees and charges.

The Head of Service agreed to provide a report in the coming year to consider how the Council could better reflect the income received and to provide contextual information for Members. With regard to football pitch usage, the data had not followed the pattern of previous years as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, but some work could be done around comparisons with previous years. With regard to café licences, these had previously been granted for three years but having regard to the current uncertainty had been reduced to one-year licences to be granted. With

regard to the increase in costs, the Head of Service agreed to speak to the service area for the detail and report back to Members.

The Deputy Leader stated that the Council had learnt a lot during the last 12 months as to how businesses wished to go forward and regular discussions had been and would continue to be held with traders regarding their needs.

The Leader commented that Cabinet would consider the comments made by Members at the meeting and review the proposed fee arrangements for café licences prior to a final decision being made.

Following consideration of the report, the Scrutiny Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T Cabinet be requested to review the fees and charges in light of the comments made at the meeting having regard to usage and the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic.
- (2) T H A T a further report be presented to the Scrutiny Committee in the next financial year in respect of income levels, utilisation and the rationale for all fees and charges.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting and to enable the Committee's views to be considered by Cabinet when making a decision on fees and charges for services for 2021-22.
- (2) In order that detailed consideration can be given in respect of the usage of, and the income levels and rationale for any increases.”