
OVERVIEW OF EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

Medium-Term Financial Plan – Schedule of Charges

2. As part of Scrutiny's discussions on the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2017/18 to 2020/21, it was agreed that each Scrutiny Committee would undertake a piece of work to look at the non-statutory charges for those services which fell within their individual remits and this was considered and confirmed by the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group.
3. At our meeting held on the 20 April, 2017, we had a general discussion on the level of fees and charges in relation to a number of service areas which were under our remit and the Officers outlined the principles and reasoning behind their recommendations in relation to the agreed charges. We did feel that there was some merit in undertaking some further work to consider the fees and charges in relation to land charges and marriages and requested that benchmarking information from other neighbouring authorities be obtained.
4. In view of the current financial position of the Authority, we did discuss whether there was any potential opportunity and scope for further income to be generated if the non-statutory charges were increased, even marginally, where possible and whether the Authority should review its business case for opening leisure facilities on Bank Holidays in line with private competitors. Officers did advise some caution in relation to any potential increase as it was felt that services may become non-competitive and, as a result, there may be a subsequent reduction in income.
5. The majority of the fees and charges fall within the remit of the Place Scrutiny Committee, however, as the Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee has overall responsibility, it will formulate a co-ordinated response to Cabinet as part of the budget consultation process.

Work Programme

6. We have reviewed our work programme and have agreed to add the monitoring of the home to school transport contract and the project position statement in relation to the library relocation to it.

7. In addition, Members confirmed that, following the briefing session to all Members on highway maintenance, they were satisfied with the information presented, however, we did agree to leave this item on our work programme so that we could monitor the situation.

Councillor Ian Haszeldine
Chair Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee