

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 21 JULY 2009

REPORT BY HEAD OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES

8(A) REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES IN COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES: COMPLIANCE WITH CORPORATE POLICY

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

'D' RECOMMENDATION - that Community Scrutiny Committee receives the review against corporate policy, as presented at Appendix 'A' of the report.

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1.0 Purpose/Summary of Report

1.1 At its meeting of the 9th September 2008, the Executive agreed to a Fees and Charges Strategy. That strategy required that all fees and charges should be reviewed in accordance with it. This report constitutes that review of charges for community and cultural services.

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/Objectives

2.1 **Fit for purpose, services fit for you**

Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.

3.0 Background

3.1 The fees and charges strategy requires that all fees are reviewed on the basis of the following criteria:

- any subsidy from the Council taxpayer to the service user should be a deliberate choice;
- fees should generate income to help deliver service improvement in priority areas;
- fees should support the medium term financial strategy;
- there should be consistency in fee setting for similar areas;
- unnecessary subsidy from the Council tax payer to commercial organisations should be avoided;

- if the impact of the review is high, then changes can be phased.

3.2 In addition, Heads of Service were asked to identify any services where charges could be made, where they currently are not.

#### 4.0 Report

4.1 The template at Appendix 'A' (Pages 8.3 - 8.8) assesses fees and charges against corporate policy for the following services:

- Markets
- Meals on Wheels
- Leisure facilities
- Castle Hall

#### 5.0 Consultation

5.1 None

#### 6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 None

#### 7.0 Financial implications

7.1 None arising directly from this report.

#### 8.0 Human Resource Implications

8.1 None

#### 9.0 Risk Management Implications

9.1 None identified.

#### Background Papers

None.

Contact Members: The review cuts across three portfolios.

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