Analysis of proposed changes to charging for nonresidential care services

1. Charging for services to carers:

Proposal: Carers would be assessed under the Fairer Charging rules to pay a contribution to the carer's direct payment they receive.

Process: to assess the level of contribution payable the carer would need to be financially assessed under Fairer Charging. The outcome could be that: the carer is below the income threshold and pays no contribution, has income that would require them to pay a proportion of the cost, or has capital which would require them to pay the all of the cost.

Comparison with other authorities: 67% of neighbouring and comparator authorities do not means test carers services. However it should be noted that in this area the range of services may vary considerably. For example CBC has a maximum carers Direct Payment equivalent to £80 every four weeks but Buckinghamshire (the only neighbouring authority that means-tests carers services) has a wider range of support services and does not have a limit on the level of Direct Payment available to carers.

Analysis: There are currently around 228 carers in receipt of a direct payment. This number is currently increasing by a net 15 per month. The value of the carers' direct payment is normally equivalent to £80 per four weeks.

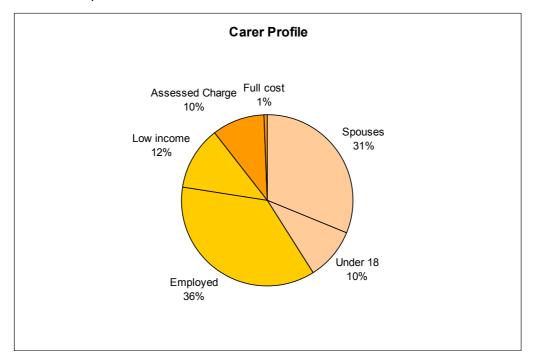
Introduction of charging for carers services would not affect the carers who are the partners of customers already receiving a service as effectively they are already financially assessed as part of their partner's assessment. This accounts for approximately 30% of carers. A further 10% are carers for a person under 18 and would not be chargeable.

Of the remaining group 60% are employed and it is therefore very likely that they would pay no charge (as income from employment is excluded from Fairer Charging). Of the remaining 40% is its estimated (using national figures for the characteristics of carers in terms of income amounts and sources) that 10% of those would be assessed to contribute the 'full cost' and 40% would have to contribute a proportion. It is also reasonable to assume that a lower proportion of those with the means which would indicate that they fell into the 'full cost' group would be in receipt of a carers Direct Payment. The net effect of this is that 10% of carers would pay a contribution. To assess this then 59% of carers would need to have a financial assessment. This is illustrated in the chart below.

If it is assumed that by the end of 2010-11 there are 300 carers receiving a Direct Payment then in a full year therefore it is estimated that the council could save $\pounds 17,000$ in reduced Direct Payments to carers by introducing means testing. However against this would need to be offset the cost of undertaking the financial assessments needed. In the short term there would be the need to assess 59% the 228 current carers and then there would be the need to assess the new carers as they apply for a Direct Payment. It is estimated that 140 new assessments per year would be required.

If it is assumed that by the end of 2010-11 there are 300 carers receiving a Direct Payment then in a full year therefore it is estimated that the council could save $\pounds 17,000$ in reduced Direct Payments to carers by introducing means testing.

However against this would need to be offset the cost of undertaking the financial assessments needed. In the short term there would be the need to assess 59% the 228 current carers and then there would be the need to assess the new carers as they apply for a Direct Payment. It is estimated that 140 new assessments per year would be required.



It is estimated that 80% of carers could complete the financial assessment form without the need for a CFA visit and the remainder would require a visit. Using the figure of £175 for each assessment that requires a visit and £22 for each that doesn't then the cost of the annual assessments required would be £7000 in the first full year. This would increase in subsequent years as reassessments are required to an estimated £9000 per annum. There would also be the need to assess the current carers and this is estimated as a 'one-off' cost of £7100. This is summarised in the table on the next page.

It should also be noted that at present other carers receive vouchers each of which can be exchanged for an hour of 'sitting' provided by a care agency. A carer can receive up to 8 vouchers per month. This system is being gradually replaced by the Direct Payments system but there are still around 200 people who receive vouchers. Should means-testing be introduced then it would be necessary to also apply this to the voucher scheme.

| | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Costs | | | |
| Assess current carers | -7100 | | |
| Assess new carers | -3500 | -7000 | -7000 |
| Reassess existing carers | | -2000 | -2000 |
| Total Costs | -10600 | -9000 | -9000 |
| Income | 4000 | 17000 | 17000 |
| Net Income | -6600 | 8000 | 8000 |
| Cumulative Income | -6600 | 1400 | 9400 |

This would have the same issues as the Direct Payments scheme (i.e. there would be a need to undertake additional Financial Assessments) but in addition there would be a need to agree the cash value of the vouchers, not to mention a number of administrative challenges (as the scheme is operated on the council's behalf by a third party). No analysis has been undertaken of the scheme but using the data around Direct Payments it is estimated that the introduction of means-testing would be approximately cost neutral (i.e. the cost of collection would equal the additional income).

Summary of feedback from consultation: This proposal was the most unpopular with over 75% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing with the proposal. This issue also received the largest amount of specific feedback in the consultation.

Issues identified in Equalities Impact Assessment: A number of issues were identified in the EIA and it concludes that implementation of such a policy requires careful consideration. If the policy is introduced then stringent monitoring of its effects is recommended.

Impact: There is no doubt that the introduction of means-testing would be unpopular with carers and may be counter-productive in terms of the 'goodwill' the council needs to develop and maintain with carers. The introduction of mean-testing may also result in pressure for an increase in the level of service provided by the council to carers.

Recommendation: It is recommended that means testing for carers' services is not introduced at this time. If an extension to the range and level of services offered to carers is being considered in future then it may be appropriate to revisit this option at that time.

Full year effect of recommendations: As the recommendation is for no change then the full year effect is nil. If the charging were introduced the net annual income would be £8000 from 2011-12 onwards.

In-year effect of recommendations: As the recommendation is for no change then the in year effect is nil. If the charging were introduced the net income in the current year would be -£6600 (i.e. a net cost).

2. Charging for transport to Day Centres

Proposal: The proposal is to introduce a charge for transport to and from day centres. There are various options for how to do this but the favoured one is a flat rate 'per journey' charge for those people who use the transport service provided by the council.

Process: Staff in the Day Centres would record use of transport with their current attendance records and this would be used to generate bills for chargeable customers.

Comparison with other authorities: A proposed charge of £1.50 per journey is comparable with the charges levied by other authorities. The total cost of attending day care is probably a better measure than looking at the cost of transport in isolation. Figures for this in our neighbouring and comparator authorities appear in the table below. It can be seen that our current charge is already at the upper end of the scale.

| Authority | Older People Day Centre rates | Transport | Total (day centre + return journey) |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------|
| Herts CC | 38.40 | 2.00 | 40.40 |

| Authority | Older People Day Centre rates | Transport | Total (day centre + return journey) |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------|
| Stockport | 32.20 | 4.00 | 36.20 |
| Bucks CC | 30.00 | 0.00 | 30.00 |
| Bedford | 27.00 | 3.00 | 30.00 |
| CBC | 27.50 | 0.00 | 27.50 |
| Warrington | 19.48 | 3.20 | 22.68 |
| Milton Keynes | 15.40 | 0.00 | 15.40 |
| Luton | 13.50 | 0.00 | 13.50 |
| Calderdale | 10.33 | 4.70 | 15.03 |
| Swindon | 11.40 | 2.00 | 13.40 |
| West Berkshire | 10.20 | 2.40 | 12.60 |
| Bury | 0.00 | 3.80 | 3.80 |
| Wiltshire | 0.00 | 3.50 | 3.50 |
| Bath / NE Somerset | 0.00 | 3.30 | 3.30 |
| South Glous | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Medway | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Analysis: The total number of day centre attendances per week is set out in the table below:

| Day Centre | Number of people days per week |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ampthill | 187 |
| Houghton Regis | 118 |
| Leighton Buzzard (COG) | 22 |
| Leighton Buzzard (excl. residential) | 101 |
| Meppershall | 10 |
| Parksiders | 40 |
| Silsoe | 91 |
| Townsend, Houghton Regis | 184 |
| Biggleswade | 91 |
| Total | 844 |

However this change would only affect the full cost customers of which there are 28 attending day centres at present. The total number of day's attendance this group has is 41 per week (5% of attendances). If a charge of £1.50 per journey was introduced then the annual increase in income to the council would be £6000.

Day Centre users already have a financial assessment so no additional assessment will be required.

As a result of this work it has also been identified that there are a number of smaller day centres operated on our behalf by other providers for whom we may not be getting information about attendance and therefore are not charging. This will be investigated further but as only 5% of day centre attendances are chargeable it does

not seem likely that resolution of any anomalies would yield significant additional income.

Summary of feedback from consultation: This proposal was not popular with just over 50% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing with the proposal.

Issues identified in Equalities Impact Assessment: No specific issues were identified in the EIA.

Impact: Although the additional income from charging for transport is not great the view is that it will be helpful to introduce a separate charge as it will provide for greater equity with those who attend Day Opportunities (and may fund their own transport) and also facilitate the introduction of personal budgets (although it is accepted that the proposed charge does not reflect the true cost of providing transportation).

Recommendation: It is recommended that charging for transport to day centres is introduced at a rate of £1.50 per journey. The policy should apply from 1st October 2010 and be introduced for existing customers after giving them a reasonable notice period.

Full year effect of recommendations: The full year effect is estimated to be an additional £6,000 income for the council.

In-year effect of recommendations: The in year effect is estimated to be an additional £2,000 income for the council.

3. Decrease subsidy for Meals on Wheels and Meals at Day Centres

Proposal: It is proposed that the charge for meals on wheels is increased and at the same time the charge for meals taken at Day Centres is also increased by the same amount.

Process: Recipients of meals on wheels pay the provider directly at a rate determined by the council. Customers who have a meal at a Day Centre pay directly to the centre.

Comparison with other authorities: The average charge for meals on wheels is $\pounds 3.50$ per meal compared with $\pounds 3.25$ in CBC. The highest charge in the comparator group is Swindon ($\pounds 5.00$) and the lowest is Warrington ($\pounds 2.95$)

Analysis: An increase of £0.25 pence per meal would save the council £6000 per year on Meals on Wheels and net an additional £8000 of income from Day Centres.

Summary of feedback from consultation: This proposal the third most unpopular with just over 60% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing with the proposal.

Issues identified in Equalities Impact Assessment: No specific issues were identified in the EIA although monitoring the impact of this change on the take up of the service is recommended.

Impact: Higher increases would yield higher savings but may deter people from taking the meals with consequent health effects in some cases.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the charge for Meals on Wheels and Meals at Day Centres is increased to £3.50. The policy should apply from 1st October 2010 and be introduced for existing customers after giving them a reasonable notice period.

Full year effect of recommendations: The full year effect is estimated to be an additional £14,000 income for the council.

In-year effect of recommendations: The in year effect is estimated to be an additional £4,000 income for the council.

4. Charging for Reablement Services

Proposal: Reablement services would be charged for on the same basis as home care.

Process: In order to charge for this service then a financial assessment would need to be carried out as early as possible in the reablement process. In practice this may prove difficult. There may also be difficulties with the charging administration as the level of service is likely to vary considerably from week to week during the reablement period.

Comparison with other authorities: 88% of authorities that provided information on reablement said that they did not charge for the service.

Analysis: Reablement is currently being developed within the council so it is difficult to estimate what the service will look like when fully implemented. However if it is assumed that in a given year the council will undertake 300 periods of reablement lasting on average 4 weeks (based on 60% of new customers going through reablement) and that Financial Assessments are completed within 2 weeks then there is the potential for the council to receive on average £48 per customer. This would deliver additional income of £14,000 per annum. However this income would be halved if a Financial Assessment was not carried out for 3 weeks and reduce to zero if it was 4 weeks. In addition there would also be some additional administrative cost to calculating the charges which is estimated at £5000 per annum.

However if the introduction of charging acted as a disincentive for customers to participate in reablement then this may prove counterproductive. A 2007 study for the DH's care services efficiency delivery (CSED) network found that up to 68% of people no longer needed a home care package after a period of reablement, and up to 48% continued not to need home care two years later.

In Shaping the Future of Care Together Green Paper (July 2009) the last government stated "You will receive free support to stay well and as independent as possible. We think that people who are leaving hospital and need care and support for the first time should have the right to the reablement help they would benefit from at home..." The Coalition Government has since stated that "the government was right to be reconsidering parts of the legislation which dealt with reablement and carers' breaks, given the importance of promoting people's independence and more effectively supporting carers". Thus it is entirely possible that legislation will be introduced in the near future to make reablement a free service.

It is considered that the development of reablement offers the opportunity to identify those customers who will need an ongoing service as early as possible during the reablement process and to commence the financial assessment so that it is completed prior to them starting to receive ongoing services such as day or home care. It is difficult to assess the impact that this would have but it would not seem unreasonable that integrating the financial assessment process with reablement should be capable of delivering an additional £5,000 income in a full year. This would be the equivalent of bringing $2/3^{rds}$ of the people who go through reablement into the charging regime a week earlier than they otherwise would have.

Summary of feedback from consultation: Around 60% of respondents supported the proposal to charge for reablement.

Issues identified in Equalities Impact Assessment: No specific issues were identified in the EIA although monitoring the impact of this change on the take up of the service is recommended.

Impact: Introducing a charge for reablement may act as a disincentive for customers to fully participate in the reablement process and this may be counterproductive to the aim of the service which is to ensure that customers are living as independently as possible with the consequent long term impact on the need for residential and non-residential care services.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the draft policy is amended to exclude reablement from charging and to require the customer to cooperate with the financial assessment process during the period of reablement. In addition it is recommended that further work be undertaken to better integrate financial assessment with reablement.

Full year effect of recommendations: Although the introduction of charging for reablement could net the council an additional £9000 in a full year this is not what is being proposed. The full year effect of the recommendation above (to integrated financial assessment more with reablement) is estimated to be an additional £5,000 income for the council.

In-year effect of recommendations: The in year effect is estimated to be an additional £2,000 income for the council.

5. <u>Charging for carers where two carers providing care at the same time</u> ('double-ups')

Proposal: The charge that customers pay would be based on the total carer hours received not the periods of time during which care is delivered.

Process: There would be no change to the financial assessment process but billing would be changed to base charges on the number of carer hours received.

Comparison with other authorities: Of the comparison authorities 42% charge for 'double-ups'.

Analysis: Around 150 customers have some 'double-up' care but this change is only likely to impact people who pay full cost. At the time or writing this applies to 7 customers plus it is likely to apply to another 2 who are in the process of being financially assessed.

Analysis of the care packages of the 7 current customers gives an additional charge of $\pounds 64,000$ per annum. If the other two customers are factored in then a this rises to $\pounds 83,000$ for a full year. In reality this is unlikely to be fully achieved as customers may opt to reduce care packages and/or revert to self-funding. However it is reasonable that the total savings to the council by introducing such a policy would be in the region of $\pounds 75,000$ per annum.

Summary of feedback from consultation: This proposal the fourth most unpopular with just over 50% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing with the proposal.

Issues identified in Equalities Impact Assessment: It was noted that this proposal could be perceived as unfair but that in fact self-funders and people on Direct Payments already pay for 'double-ups' so the proposed change would be fairer than the existing system.

Impact: This policy change is fairer than the existing policy as, under the current policy, people receiving Direct Payments already pay for care on the basis proposed. However it has been fed back via the consultation that some customers do not appear to have been consulted about whether they receive two carers or one so it would be important to ensure that this change of policy is only implemented with affected customers after their need for two carers has been reviewed with them.

Recommendation: It is recommended that charging based on the number of care hours delivered is introduced for all new customers from 1st October 2010. For existing customers it should be introduced when their care plan has been reviewed or 1st January 2011, whichever comes first.

Full year effect of recommendations: The full year effect is estimated to be an additional £75,000 income for the council.

In-year effect of recommendations: The in year effect is estimated to be an additional £20,000 income for the council.

6. Charging for Telecare

Proposal: It is proposed to retain the charge for the Community Alarm service and to introduce similar charges for Telecare system monitoring.

Process: Further work needs to be undertaken to agree the best way to administer charging.

Comparison with other authorities: No formal comparison was undertaken as authorities are at different stages in the implementation of Telecare.

Analysis: Telecare equipment provided as a result of a needs assessment must be provided free of charge. It is possible for the council to make a charge for the ongoing monitoring service and at the moment it does this for the Community Alarm service but not for Telecare. The service is currently being developed and a new contract specification is being written. At present there are 700 users of Telecare and this is increasing by about 30 per month. These customers do not currently contribute towards the cost of the service.

Further work needs to be done on the options for introduction of charging therefore no estimates have been incorporated into this report.

Summary of feedback from consultation: Over 70% of respondents were in favour of charging for Telecare services.

Issues identified in Equalities Impact Assessment: No specific issues were identified in the EIA.

Impact: There is no impact at this stage.

Recommendation: It is recommended that further work is done on the options for charging for Telecare with the target date of 1/4/11 set for the implementation of charges. It is also recommended that the policy is amended to reflect the intention to charge for Telecare services.

Full year effect of recommendations: As the recommendation is for no change then the full year effect is nil. However it is anticipated that proposals will be brought forward in the current year to introduce some charging from 1/4/11.

In-year effect of recommendations: As the recommendation is for no change then the in year effect is nil.

7. Direct Payments not made until Financial Assessment completed

Proposal: The policy proposes that Direct Payments are not paid until the Financial Assessment is completed.

Process: A process would be put in place to ensure that a Direct Payment was not commenced until a Financial Assessment had been carried out.

Comparison with other authorities: No comparison has been undertaken.

Analysis: Further consideration of this proposal has lead to the conclusion that such a policy would be unfair as it treats recipients of Direct Payments differently from other customers.

Summary of feedback from consultation: This proposal was quite popular with 70% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with it.

Issues identified in Equalities Impact Assessment: It was noted in the EIA that this policy is unfair to people on Direct Payments as the policy for those receiving traditional services is that they do not start to be charged until they have been financially assessed and notified of the charge.

Impact: Aside from this review, work is underway to ensure that the Financial Assessment process is carried out quickly in all cases and the intention is that in future assessments will have been completed before the other requirements for receiving a Direct Payment (such as having set up a separate bank account) have been met. Thus the policy as proposed should be unnecessary. It should also be noted that in the majority of cases, should such a policy be implemented, the customer would need to receive 'traditional' service(s) until the Direct Payment commenced and this would be at a cost to the council which could not be charged to the customer.

Recommendation: It is therefore recommended that this proposal is removed from the policy but that the sections about non-disclosure of financial information and non-co-operation with the financial assessment process are changed to make clear that they apply to recipients of Direct Payments as well as 'traditional' services.

Full year effect of recommendations: As the recommendation is for no change then the full year effect is nil.

In-year effect of recommendations: As the recommendation is for no change then the in year effect is nil.

8. Backdate welfare benefits to date of award

Proposal: Where a customer claims a welfare benefit as a result of a Community Finance Adviser (CFA) visit then when this benefit is awarded its value would be taken into account from the date of the award when calculating the customer's contribution. The current policy is only to backdate for six weeks.

Process: The assessment process would be modified to take into account the revised policy and customers would be advised at the time of claiming what proportion of any backdated award may be payable to the council.

Comparison with other authorities: No comparison has been undertaken.

Analysis: Each year CFA's assist with the claiming backdated disability benefits for approximately 100 customers and the average additional award is £48 per week. It is estimated that this change of policy would allow on average an extra 7 weeks benefit per customer to be taken into account. If it is assumed that £15 of this extra benefit will be retained by the customer as DRE then the additional income to the council is £231 per new customer (£33 x 7) which is an additional £23,000 per annum.

Summary of feedback from consultation: This proposal was quite popular with 70% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with it.

Issues identified in Equalities Impact Assessment: No issues were indentified in the EIA.

Impact: This policy should have little adverse impact on customers.

Recommendation: It is therefore recommended that from 1st October 2010 the 'date of award' of disability benefits is taken into account when calculating all new financial assessments.

Full year effect of recommendations: The full year effect is estimated to be an additional £23,000 income for the council.

In-year effect of recommendations: The in year effect is estimated to be an additional £11,000 income for the council.

9. Annual Re-assessment

Proposal: Each customer would have an annual re-assessment of their finances and their contribution. This would be done as a 'desktop' exercise and no customer visit would be required.

Process: Customers in receipt of welfare benefits would have their assessment automatically updated when benefit rates increase in April each year and would be sent a revised assessment and asked to advise us of any relevant facts that had changed or confirm that their circumstances remain as previously advised.

Comparison with other authorities: A similar policy is in place in other councils although no detailed comparison has been undertaken.

Analysis: Although customers should advise us when there is a change to their circumstances there is evidence from the reassessments undertaken that this is not always the case and that the council loses income as a result. It is estimated that the cost of undertaking the 'bulk reassessment' would be low (in the region of £2000 per annum) and that the additional income would be at least £3000. Although the cash benefit is not high there would be other benefits such as reduced numbers of customer queries and complaints and higher customer satisfaction.

Summary of feedback from consultation: This was the most populate proposal. Around 90% of respondents supported it.

Issues identified in Equalities Impact Assessment: No specific issues were identified in the EIA.

Impact: This policy should have no adverse impact on customers and should lead to reduced numbers of customer queries and complaints and higher customer satisfaction.

Recommendation: It is therefore recommended that from 1st October 2010 each customer is reassessed annually. It is also recommended that the draft policy is modified to clarify that this reassessment will not normally require a customer visit. It is also recommended that appropriate clauses are added to the policy which clarify how changes to customers' capital, income and expenditure which occur between reassessments are treated to state that the change can be 'backdated' for up to a year.

Full year effect of recommendations: The full year effect is estimated to be an additional £1,000 income for the council.

In-year effect of recommendations: As this policy would be implemented in earnest from April 2011 the in year effect is estimated to be nil.

10. <u>Charge full cost where customer does not co-operate with Financial</u> <u>Assessment process</u>

Proposal: The full cost charge will be payable by any customer who does not co-operate with the Financial Assessment process.

Process: Should a customer not co-operate with the process then invoice(s) for the full cost of service(s) would be raised until such time as the customer provided the required information.

Comparison with other authorities: A similar policy is in place in other councils although no detailed comparison has been undertaken.

Analysis: This policy change will act as an incentive for customers to co-operate with the Financial Assessment process. It is estimated that without this policy in any one year there will be 30 customers who would be likely to be uncooperative with the process and for each this on average adds 6 weeks to the period during which the council is unable to charge. Given the average contribution is £34 per week (and it is likely that those most motivated to be un-cooperative will be at the upper end of the charging range) then the additional income of approximately £10,000 in a full year is a reasonable expectation.

Summary of feedback from consultation: This proposal was quite popular with 70% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with it.

Issues identified in Equalities Impact Assessment: No specific issues were identified in the EIA.

Impact: The proposed policy has clear and reasonable criteria for cooperation and also allows for exceptions where there is good cause so no customer should be adversely affected by this policy.

Recommendation: It is therefore recommended that this policy is implemented as written with effect from 1st October 2010.

Full year effect of recommendations: The full year effect is estimated to be an additional £10,000 income for the council.

In-year effect of recommendations: The full year effect is estimated to be an additional £4,000 income for the council.

11. <u>Disallow payment to close relatives as Disability Related Expenditure</u> (DRE)

Proposal: This proposal would clarify that only where specifically stated in the customer's support plan would payment to a close relative be allowable as DRE.

Process: Where a customer wishes to claim DRE for payment to a close relative this will be discussed with the customer and the need validated with the care manager.

Comparison with other authorities: Practice on treatment of DRE varies considerably but other authorities have similar policies to the one proposed.

Analysis: This proposal will only impact on a low number of customers and as a result it is difficult to estimate the financial impact for the council. However if it is assumed that this applies to 40 customers at an average rate of $\pounds 10$ per week then the net increase in income to the council is $\pounds 20,000$ per annum.

Summary of feedback from consultation: Around 70% of respondents supported this proposal.

Issues identified in Equalities Impact Assessment: It was identified that employment of relatives may be appropriate to meet specific cultural needs is some circumstances. This should not be prevented by the policy as written as specific cultural needs should be incorporated into the customer's care plan. **Impact:** This proposal should not adversely impact anyone who has a genuine need. Indeed it may act as a factor in identifying and combating financial abuse of customers by their close relatives.

It would not be realistic to re-assess all customers who make payments to close relatives over a short period of time so it is proposed that the policy would be introduced for new customers from 1st October 2010 and applied to existing customers when their care and/or finances are reassessed.

Recommendation: It is therefore recommended that this policy is implemented as written with effect from 1st October 2010.

Full year effect of recommendations: The full year effect is estimated to be an additional £20,000 income for the council.

In-year effect of recommendations: The full year effect is estimated to be an additional £5,000 income for the council.

12. £15 threshold for DRE without receipts

Proposal: The threshold of allowable DRE without receipts will be lowered to ± 15 .

Process: The assessment process would stay the same but the customer would be required to provide receipts for items of expenditure if they wished to claim more than £15 per week.

Comparison with other authorities: Practice on treatment of DRE varies considerably but other authorities have similar policies to the one proposed.

Analysis: In the last year 171 customers had DRE capped at the current rate of £20 per week. Reducing the threshold by £5 for this number of customers would result in an increase in income of £40,000 for the council in a full year assuming that this change of policy would prompt a proportion to obtain receipts.

Summary of feedback from consultation: This was the second most popular proposal with around 80% of respondents supporting it.

Issues identified in Equalities Impact Assessment: No specific issues were identified in the EIA.

Impact: It would not be realistic to re-assess all 171 customers who have DRE capped at £20 per week so it is proposed that the policy would be introduced for new customers from 1st October 2010 and phased in for existing from the period 1/10/10 to 31/3/11. These customers would be advised of the change of policy and offered the opportunity to have a financial re-assessment or to simply pay the additional charge after a reasonable notice period.

Recommendation: It is therefore recommended that this policy is implemented as written with effect from 1st October 2010.

Full year effect of recommendations: The full year effect is estimated to be an additional £40,000 income for the council.

In-year effect of recommendations: The in year effect is estimated to be an additional £15,000 income for the council.

Summary of Financial Impact of Recommendations

The proposals are summarised in the table below

| Proposal | Would Additional Financial Assessments be required? | Would there be an additional cost of collection ? | Full year financial impact if final recommend- ations adopted | In year financial impact if final recommend- ations adopted |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Carers Services | Yes | Yes | £0 | £0 |
| Day Centre Transport | No | No | £6,000 | £2,000 |
| Meals of Wheels and Meals at Day Centres | No | No | £14,000 | £4,000 |
| Charge for Reablement | No | Yes | £0 | £0 |
| Integrate Financial Assessment with Reablement | No | No | £5,000 | £2,000 |
| Double-Ups | No | No | £75,000 | £20,000 |
| Telecare | No | No | £0 | £0 |
| Direct Payments | No | No | £0 | £0 |
| Benefits Backdate | No | No | £23,000 | £11,000 |
| Annual Reassessment | Yes | No | £1000 | Nil |
| Non-cooperation | No | No | £10,000 | £4,000 |
| Disallow DRE for payment to relatives | No | No | £20,000 | £5,000 |
| £15 DRE threshold without receipts | No | No | £40,000 | £15,000 |
| Total | | | £194,000 | £63,000 |