

Responses to Overview & Scrutiny Questions

Social Care Health & Housing

VAT has been correctly applied to Telecare.

The charges for domiciliary care are per hour for each carer.

With regard to immigration. The UK Border Agency requires a report from a competent Officer that a property proposed as occupation for someone looking to enter the UK meets the required standards. The Council is not obliged to provide these reports, which require a property survey, but Housing Services will undertake an immigration survey and provide a full report for the proposed fee.

The survey and report is provided by an Officer with a suitable qualification and expertise in applying the Housing Health and Safety Rating System. They do not involve passport checks because it is a property survey to check condition of the property and that the property will not become overcrowded if they move there.

The charge was introduced in 14/15 and is based on the full cost of providing the survey.

Children's Services

We have applied a 2% increase to all charges. CBC already costs slightly more than other providers and a further increase could price us out of the market. We are competing against other LA s music services.

CBC can deliver 40 minute Individual lessons for out of County Schools, but the reason it is not on the Lesson & Charges sheet is that no one had asked for that option in the past. CBC usually try to deliver whatever we are asked for. If there was a request, we could accommodate it and charge prorata.

Community Services

A **definite Statement** is the statutory document accompanying the Definitive Map providing supporting data on the detail of a path, e.g. constraints such as gates and stiles and widths

With regard to **Hackney carriages and private hire and licensing charges** in general there has been a recent ruling in relation to the setting of fees and charges restating that charges are meant to represent the time/cost to the local authority for processing the application. This was behind the increase in fee scales for zoos and riding establishments a couple of years ago. Last time the calculation for hackney carriages and private hire were undertaken we had a small surplus (approx. £10k) but then we have had recent superannuation increases resulting in the increase in

June 2014.. In response to an operator regarding the last increase they were advised that Central Bedfordshire Council had not increased its fees and charges relating to hackney carriage and private hire since 2010. The licensing authority has absorbed the inflationary increase during this four year period. In 2013 and 2014 there have been additional costs incurred by the Council and these are reflected in the fee increases which will come into force on the 1st June 2014

A number of fees are statutorily set and in the case of the LA03 licences these are based on the rateable value of the premises. To base on turnover would be very bureaucratic as we would have to check their accounts every year and then adjust the fees accordingly and turnover wouldn't necessarily translate into profit, so we could be charging a higher fee to a business that is making less profit than someone paying a lower fee

With **bulky waste charges** the current 2014/15 can be maintained without any effect on the budgetary position.

Flitwick Car park –It has been agreed with Bedfordshire Commuter Association that widening the tariffs available at Steppingley Road car park will be looked at once the plan for any further improvements/work to the car park is confirmed. Any new tariffs put in place will take into consideration the costs of other providers car parking charges in this area and the capacity of the Steppingley Road car park.

There has only been one charge for **mobile food operators** The intention was to provide a marked out bay for mobile food operators however the issue is how have we assessed the site, what happens if it is parked on by someone else and who polices this activity? With only one payment received this would not cover the expense of implementing the scheme. .

If the mobile vendors serve food they are registered as a food business with Public Protection and they are inspected in line with the FSA framework. All mobile vendors are required to have a street trading licence for which they pay a fee to PP. A dual licence for mobile traders (food or other) who have agreement from Highways to park on their land could be looked at with the application being processed by PP licensing and the fee split dependant on the input from each team. This needs to be further developed

As the **opening times of the libraries** are on the web some wording can be added to the fees and charges schedule to direct people to the relevant page.

Regeneration & Business Support

Confirmed that charges for Regeneration & Business Support, Building Control, Planning Services and Minerals and Waste will be reviewed later in the year . Should any changes be recommended, there is provision within the Fees & Charges Policy to accommodate in year changes.

