

Time began	12.15pm
Time ended	12.26pm

## **Planning, Environment and Regeneration Council Cabinet Member Meeting 24 February 2015**

Present: Councillor Rawson

In Attendance: Councillor Wood

### **01/14      Apologies**

There were no apologies.

### **02/14      Late Items**

There were no late items.

### **03/14      Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

### **04/14      Neighbourhoods Directorate Fees and Charges**

A report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods was considered which stated that the Neighbourhoods Directorate annually reviewed its fees and charges across its range of services. This was to ensure that the fees and charges where applicable reflected the cost of delivering services, took into account comparator rates for those services within the sector, ensured that inflationary cost increases were taken into account and that budget income targets were achieved.

The proposed fees and charges for Environment and Regulatory Services 2015/16 were set out in Appendix 2 of the report. The service areas within the department that were included in the proposals were:

- Bereavement Services
- Markets
- Car Boot Sale and Livestock Market Associated Activities
- Pest Control

The inflationary increase that had been specified by the Council on the 2014/15 fees and charges had been applied unless otherwise stated. All prices were shown inclusive of VAT where it was applicable.

The officer reported that with regard to Bereavement Services charges, it was not proposed to increase the main funeral related charges for 2015/16, but other service related charges would be increased by the inflationary increase of 6%. Councillor

Rawson noted that should there be a change during the year in the commercial market these charges may need to be addressed again.

The Cabinet Member was informed that the market fees and charges income was mainly from stall rental, that was linked to leases, licences and agreements with pre-determined renewal dates. It was noted that these decisions were set by a local authority Committee and officers are unauthorised to amend. There would be further work carried out on this area in due course.

Clare Harrison, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Stanton stated that he believed in general the rises where applied were fair. He noted that the none changes in most of the bereavement services were more common was commendable, and that the memorial and discretionary service increase in charges was regrettable but measured.

The officer reported that there was a proposal to end all domestic pest control provided by the Council, and so there were no revised fees. Should the Council decide to retain the current level of service, it was proposed to delegate the authority to the Director of Environment and Regulatory Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member, Councillor Rawson.

Clare Harrison, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Stanton requested that should the pest control service continue, the Regeneration and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Board would like to see the proposed price changes.

**Resolved to approve the fees and charges for 2015/16 set out in the report.**

MINUTES END