

PART I MINUTES

FEES AND CHARGES

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer detailing the proposed amended fees and charges.

In answer to a Member's question, the Board was advised that no particular index was used as an anchor to set rates as these were not sole indicators. Last year, October's CPI had been used, and was one of a number of indicators that had been evaluated to determine the fees and charges for the year.

It was advised that household inflation could not be followed as there were other factors to consider such as cost of services, price and volume of delivery and service enhancement.

Members questioned the large increase in charges for sports facilities, particularly as Gosport had an above average obesity problem and accessible sports facilities could help.

The Board was advised that although a complete review had not been undertaken to review the fees and charges, scoping work had taken place but that it would not be as easy as comparable datasets and was not granular. 12 months ago there had been an expectation of an elevation in inflation, between then and now, and a reduction had been unexpected and not a true reflection of current costs for the Council.

Members welcomed the inclusion of drugs tests for taxi licenses.

Members reiterated their concerns about the correlation of the increase, as car parking charges had increased 3 times since May 2022 but the increase across them varied from between 40 and 70 %. This variation in increase also applied to sports pitches.

Some Members felt that the sports pitches and pavilion had been in decline for a significant period of time.

RESOLVED: That the proposed fees and charges be referred to the Full Council