

The Leader's Report of Cabinet Issues

1. Revenue and Capital Budgets 2016/17

This is the subject of a separate report to Council at Agenda item 6.

2. Essex and Southend-on-Sea Waste Local Plan

This is the subject of a separate report to Council at Agenda item 7.

3. Modifying Charges for Non-Residential Social Care Services for Adults

Anticipating an ongoing financial challenge in adult social care over the medium term Cabinet agreed to implement the following changes to the financial assessments and the charging of adults who receive non-residential social care services with effect from 11 April 2016:

- increasing the proportion of income taken into account in assessment calculations from 90% to 100%
- increasing the cap on the maximum payment made by a Service User towards their care, currently set at £484.33/week, with the new cap for 2016/7 being £784 per week, 2017/8 being £1,085 per week, 2018/9 being £1,386 per week and 2019/2020 being £1,687 per week;
- using the higher rates of: Attendance Allowance, the care component of Disability Living Allowance and the daily living component of the Personal Independence Payments as part of the Service User's income taken into account in assessment calculations;
- Reducing the maximum amount of capital disregarded in financial assessment from £30,000 to £27,000; and
- Undertaking a financial re-assessment of those service users whose current assessment takes account of their partner's financial status.

Cabinet also agreed to the provision of the following short-term initiatives to minimise any potential hardship that may arise for some service users from the above changes:

- additional social worker capacity to ensure that people affected by the changes are receiving a care package which is appropriate to their needs;
- additional financial assessment capacity to meet the increased enquiries from service users and to undertake financial reassessments of service users;
- a temporary increase in capacity by providing additional resource to the Council's contracted supplier to undertake benefits reviews to ensure that

service users have the opportunity to claim their full entitlement to benefits;
and

- development of a proposal for the provision of a carers' crisis service to identify and support carers at points of crisis, build resilience and enable them to plan and deliver their caring role, to reduce the risk to service users.

4. Reprourement of the Professional Services Framework Agreement

Cabinet agreed to use the restricted procedure to procure a four-year Professional Services Framework Agreement with a single provider for the provision of specialist technical services required to support and manage the delivery of construction projects.

5. Chelmsford Park and Ride

Cabinet has approved the procurement for new contract for the operation of a bus service, Front of House Services and maintenance for the Chelmsford Park and Ride sites from 25 September for a period of five years, extendable by the Council for a further two years.

6. Live at Home Project: Contracts for Domiciliary Care

Cabinet has agreed to extend and vary the current Best Value Ranked List contracts for the provision of Live at Home Services for a period of 12 months whilst a procurement process is completed and to set a minimum price for the provision of such care.

Councillor David Finch
Leader of the Council