

FRIDAY, 6 JANUARY 2023

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE **CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES** WHICH WILL BE HELD AT **10.00 AM, ON FRIDAY, 13TH JANUARY, 2023** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA.

Wendy Walters

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Democratic Officer:	Martin S. Davies
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Wendy Walters Prif Weithredwr, *Chief Executive*,
Neuadd y Sir, Caerfyrddin. SA31 1JP
County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP

A G E N D A

- 1. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST.**
- 2. DECISION RECORD - 18TH MARCH 2022.** 3 - 4
- 3. NON-RESIDENTIAL CHARGING 2023-24.** 5 - 12

Note:- The press and public are not entitled to attend the meeting. The decision record will be published normally within 3 working days.

Agenda Item 2

**CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR
SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH
FRIDAY, 18 MARCH 2022**

PRESENT: Councillor: J. Tremlett (Cabinet Member).

The following officers were in attendance:

R. Page, Senior Business Support Manager

J. Owens, Democratic Services Officer

Virtual Meeting - 9.15 - 9.35 am

1. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

2. DECISION RECORD - 11 MAY 2021

RESOLVED that the decision record of the meeting held on the 11th May, 2021 be signed as a correct record.

3. NON-RESIDENTIAL CHARGING 2022-23

The Cabinet Member considered a report detailing the potential impact, and effect, of changes to charges for non-residential services and the need for charges in Carmarthenshire to increase in order to continue to maximise income.

To work towards full cost recovery for 2022-23, and to align rates with other Local Authorities in Wales, it was proposed to increase non-residential charges for hourly charged services from £16.85 to £18.00 (6.8%) and Day Care and Adult Placement charges from £16.50 to £17.60 (6.66%).

It was noted that the scale of charges for 2022-23, in most cases is significantly less than the cost of provision, however increasing charges would not necessarily increase income for this year because the amount anyone can pay is controlled by the current Welsh Government "Cap" and Financial Assessment. It was however recognised that there may be a small marginal increase of income from the inflationary uplift applied to the full cost, small packages of care.

RESOLVED that Carmarthenshire increase its Non-Residential charges for hourly charged services by inflation from £16.85 to £18.00 (6.8%) and Day Care and Adult Placement sessional charges from £16.50 to £17.60 (6.66%) in an attempt to recover as much revenue as possible within the rules set down by Welsh Government for 2022-23, and to align rates with other local authorities in Wales, and in particular to move closer to regional Local Authorities.

4. LOCAL AUTHORITY RESIDENTIAL CARE STANDARD CHARGE FOR 2022-2023

The Cabinet Member considered a report recommending that the Standard Charge for Local Authority Older People residential care homes be increased from £654.06 to £718.56 for Mainstream beds and from £884.17 to £935.60 for Dementia beds.

It was noted that the rates had been calculated prior to confirmation of the pay award in order to give early notification to the affected individuals.

An increase of 9.86% for mainstream beds and 5.82% for Dementia beds was attributed to the increase in staffing costs and additional cost pressures within supplies and services. Furthermore, it was acknowledged that there had been a rebalancing of costs between the Dementia Beds and Standard Residential within the Council's Revenue Budget Strategy to reflect the growing dependency levels in Residential Care and the difference in uplifts between the two charges.

RESOLVED that the Standard Charge for Local Authority Older People residential care homes be increased from £654.06 to £718.56 for Mainstream beds and from £884.17 to £935.60 for Dementia beds.

CABINET MEMBER

DATE

CABINET MEMBER MEETING FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES 13TH JANUARY, 2023

Cabinet Member:	Portfolio:	
Cllr. J. Tremlett	Health & Social Services	
NON-RESIDENTIAL CHARGING 2023-24		
Recommendations / key decisions required:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That Carmarthenshire increases its Non-Residential charges all in line with increased costs and inflation. 		
Reasons:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the Cap on Non-residential charging held at £100, there would be little benefit with increasing charges beyond inflation. Indeed, inflation will only return a minimum increase in income, and that will depend entirely on the wealth of the individuals requiring care. 		
Directorate:	Designation:	Tel No.:
Communities	Director of Community Services	01267224698
Name of Head of Service:		
Jake Morgan		
Report Author:	E Mail Address:	
Rhys Page	rjpage@carmarthenshire.gov.uk	

Declaration of Personal Interest (if any): None

Dispensation Granted to Make Decision (if any): N/A

DECISION MADE:

Signed: _____ **DATE:** _____

CABINET MEMBER

The following section will be completed by the Democratic Services Officer in attendance at the meeting

Recommendation of Officer adopted	YES / NO
Recommendation of the Officer was adopted subject to the amendment(s) and reason(s) specified:	
Reason(s) why the Officer's recommendation was not adopted:	

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
13TH JANUARY 2023**

NON-RESIDENTIAL CHARGING 2023-2024

Introduction

- 1.1 Carmarthenshire County Council charge for a range of non-residential services and has a charging policy which currently includes a “Cap” (A maximum anyone can pay towards their service(s)) which is set at the value as announced by Welsh Government from time to time.
- 1.2 In 2017 Welsh Government announced that it intended to increase its “Cap”, which at that time was £60 per week, up to £100 per week by 2022.
- 1.3 This significant increase to the “Cap” over a short period of time has potential to effect income to the extent that the authority may not maximise income if it does not consider how, it will increase individual charges for services to keep pace with the increase(s) in the “Cap”.
- 1.4 Legislation allows a lower “Cap” to be approved but does not allow a higher “Cap” than the one announced by Welsh Government.
- 1.5 The corporate Income and Charging Policy sets out requirements for departments to achieve full cost recovery unless there are legal, strategic or contractual reasons for not doing so.
- 1.6 This report looks at the potential impact, and effect of changes to the “Cap” and how charges may need to change to continue to maximise income from non-residential care services.

Background

- 2.1 There has been different guidance and legislation in place governing charges for Non-residential services since 2002. From the start there was a move away from flat rate charges to charges linked to the quantity of service(s) received. A “Cap” on the amount anyone could pay towards their care, and a financial assessment (Means Test) was also introduced at that time as a way of supporting the concept of fairer charging and ensuring that charges were affordable.
- 2.2 In 2010 the Welsh Government introduced the Social Care Charges (Wales) Measure. Prior to the introduction of the measure Carmarthenshire had a “Cap” of £96 a week, but this legislation introduced a statutory national “Cap” for Wales of £50 a week. Local Authorities could set their “Cap” below this figure, however Carmarthenshire decided to apply the “Cap” as announced by Welsh Government each year and included this in its charging policy.
- 2.3 In 2016-17 the “Cap” was £60, and in January 2017 the Welsh Government made a commitment to increase the “Cap” to £100 by 2021. To achieve this, the “Cap” has increased by £10 per year over the last 4 years, and reached its goal of £100 in April 2020, and therefore the government has met its commitment set out in 2017. No further increase has been confirmed by Welsh Government.
- 2.4 In 2017 the Authority introduced a corporate charging policy which applies to all departments and services. One of the principles within this policy is to maximise income and to work towards full cost recovery when setting charges. It is important to note that for Social Care services the recipient of the service is entitled to a Financial Assessment to determine how much they can afford to pay. It is therefore important to understand the relationship between the ability to pay, the charge for the service, the type and quantity of service provided and the “Cap”, it is this relationship that will determine the level of income even if individual charges are set at full cost recovery. Currently the scale of charges for 2023-24, in most cases is significantly less than the cost of provision, however increasing charges would not necessarily increase income for this year because the amount anyone can pay is controlled by the current “Cap” and Financial Assessment, but there may be a small marginal increase of income from the inflationary uplift applied to the full cost, small packages of care.
- 2.5 The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 is the current legislation which covers charging for services, and for the most part the charging rules have been inherited from previous legislation and continue to include a financial assessment and a “Cap”.

Impact

- 3.1 Carmarthenshire charges service users for a range on non-residential social services and each year as part of the budget setting process it reviews these charges. Historically Carmarthenshire has increased its charges for services based on inflation and budget expectations.

- 3.2 All service users are offered a Financial Assessment (Means Test), and the outcome of this assessment protects those who cannot afford to pay. For those who are wealthier in society it is the “Cap” which limits the amount that the service user is required to pay, but it is also this group that would generate the most income for the department because the size of the package would usually mean that they would pay in full up to the “Cap”.
- 3.3 The increase to charges for 2023-24 will fall in line with the authority’s wider policy, by increasing charges by inflation.

Conclusion

- 4.1 The figures shown in this report for the next year are based on existing Welsh Governments announcements, however there is no indication as to what will happen beyond 2023-24. We may have to increase charges to a greater extent if Welsh Government amend the charging rules
- 4.2 It is important to be aware that Welsh Government, in setting annual resource allocations to local authorities, will not necessarily compensate this authority because its charges are low. It is therefore not appropriate to assume that any gap in income which appear by keeping charges low will automatically be filled by Welsh Government funding.
- 4.3 The department has an opportunity to review the way it increases service charges at this current time, which will enable it to limit the impact of changes to the “Cap” in the future. Increasing service charges above inflation, in some cases significantly, will potentially have political implications as well as potential opposition from service users and families, however as already stated this authority’s service charges are significantly below that of neighbouring authorities.

Recommendation

- 5.1 That Carmarthenshire increase its Non-Residential charges for hourly charged services by inflation from £18.00 to £20.00 (11.11%) and Day Care and Adult Placement sessional charges from £17.60 to £19.55 (11.08%). This will attempt to recover as much revenue as possible within the rules set down by Welsh Government for 2023 - 24, and to align rates with other local authorities in Wales, and to move closer to regional Local Authorities.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	NO – (Attached – • Appendix 1 – Summary of Charges
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Jake Morgan, Director of Community Services

Policy and Crime & Disorder	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Organisational Development	Physical Assets
YES	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

This would be in-line with the approved Income and Charging policy adopted by Carmarthenshire. It would also follow the Social Care Charging Policy for Carmarthenshire.

3. Finance

The additional income for 2023-2024 will be generated by increasing service charges as per attachment, at these rates the authority would be setting a rate to maximise recovery of costs.

The additional income has been factored into the savings proposals needed to create a balanced budget for 2023-24.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Jake Morgan, Director of Community Services

1. Scrutiny Committee – N/A

2. Local Member(s) – N/A

3. Community / Town Council – N/A

4. Relevant Partners - N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE

APPENDIX
CHARGING DIGEST - Social Services

2021/22 Actual £	2022/23 Budget £	2023/24 Budget £	Business Unit	Service Provided	2022/23 Charge Levied £	2023/24 Proposed £	Comments	Statutory S / Discretionary
38	921	939	Laundry	Cost per person to max 1 load	2.75	3.10	12.73%	D
14,483	194,939	198,838	Community meals incl day care	Cost per meal	5.35	6.00	12.15%	D
				Cost per day	-	8.50	New flat rate charge for Service users attending full day at a Day Care setting.	D
201,131	218,993	223,373	Respite Care Charge to Clients	Adults with learning difficulties (per wk)	Full cost of placement	Full cost of placement		D
				All other adults <u>except</u> those receiving Higher Rate Attendance Allowance / Higher Rate Disability Living Allowance	Full cost of placement	Full cost of placement		D
				All other adults receiving Higher Rate Attendance Allowance/ Higher Rate Disability Living Allowance (per wk)	Full cost of placement	Full cost of placement		D
3,377,906	2,892,941	2,950,800	Non - Residential Care Charges	Max charge (per wk)	100.00	100.00	Set by Welsh Government (Awaiting confirmation on this)	S
				Home Care Charge (per hr)	18.00	20.00	11.11%	D
				Day Care - all adults (per session)	17.60	19.55	11.08%	D
				Community Support (per hr)	18.00	19.55	11.08%	D
				Education Support (per hour)	FREE	FREE		D
				Supported Living (per hour)	18.00	20.00	11.11%	D
				Adult Placement Long Term Placement (per night)	17.60	19.55	11.08%	D
				Adult Placement Short/Short Breaks	17.60	19.55	11.08%	D
				Adult Placement Day Care/Sessional	2.85	Delete	Service is no longer applicable	D
				Replacement Care	18.00	20.00	11.11%	D
				Telecare (per week)	3.50	4.20	20.00%	D

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