

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - RECORD OF DECISION

## DECISION TAKEN BY

Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

## DECISION NO.

14/00031

*If decision is likely to disclose exempt information please specify the relevant paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972*

## Subject:

**PROPOSED REVISION OF RATES PAYABLE AND CHARGES LEVIED FOR ADULTS SERVICES IN 2014-15**

## Decision:

In line with the recommendations in the report on the Proposed Revision of Rates Payable and Charges Levied for Adults' Services in 2014-15, as Cabinet Member for Adult Services, I:

a) **APPROVE** the increase to:

- i. Client contributions for residential care – older people (2.5a)
- ii. Client contributions for residential care – people with learning disabilities (2.5b)
- iii. Wellbeing Charge - Better Homes Active Lives schemes (2.10 a & b)
- iv. Notional charges for Day Care (2.12)
- v. Client contributions for Meals Charges (2.14)

b) **NOTE:**

- i. The increase in charge for Personal Expenses Allowance (2.8)
- ii. the recommendation to continue the £10 charge for blue badge (2.11)
- iii. the continuation of the Voluntary Drivers mileage rate (2.15)
- iv. the rates for consultancy work and key publications (2.18-19)

c) **CONFIRM:**

- i) The Inter Authority Protocol in place in relation to Inter Authority charging remains the same as in 13/14 (2.16)

## Reason(s) for decision, including alternatives considered and any additional information

The proposed rates payable and charges levied are considered annually, with any revisions normally introduced at the start of each financial year.

The report is focused on Adult's Social Services and the rates and charges that are currently in place, with the Children's Social Services presented separately.

The rates and charges payable for 2014/15 will be introduced the week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014. This has been confirmed with the Department of Health.

The report distinguishes between those rates and charges over which Members can exercise their discretion, and those which are laid down by Parliament.

## Financial Implications:

The increase in income and the increase in payments that these changes will bring have been

included in the 13 Feb 2014 County Council agreed budgets for the services affected.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

Due to the need implement changes to payment and other systems in time for the financial year 14/15 it has not been possible to discuss this at Cabinet Committee. In previous years, the Cabinet Committee has made no comment on these changes.

**Use of Urgency Procedure:**

In previous years some elements of the Rates & Charges decisions have been linked with the separate decision about any revision of salaries KCC staff. As the salary decision for 14/15 has been delayed it has now become necessary to use the Urgency Procedure for both the Adults' and Children's Rates & Charges decisions. This is necessary so as to avoid a loss of income to the council and to ensure that there is clear delegated authority to make certain payments in line with government regulations.

As set out in KCC's Urgency Procedures, the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Director for Families & Social Care have agreed that the procedure can be used. Additionally all the appropriate opposition group spokesmen and chair of the Cabinet Committee have also been contacted and have either made no comment or have confirmed they agree with the use of the urgency procedures.

**Background Documents:**

Report by the Corporate Director of Families & Social Care - Proposed Revision of Rates Payable and Charges Levied for Adults Services in 2014-15

**Any alternatives considered:**

As noted, elements of these revisions are set by external agencies and are not subject to discretion.

For the discretionary elements, alternative % were considered but, as in previous years, the respective recommended uplifts equivalent to CPI (2.7% in Sept 13), as the best balance between increases and the agreed budget available.

**Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:**

None



signed

25 MARCH 2014

date

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Decision Referred to Cabinet Scrutiny			
YES		NO	

Cabinet Scrutiny Decision to Refer Back for Reconsideration			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration Record Sheet Issued			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration of Decision Published			