

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	3226
Author:	Charlotte Gardiner
Department:	Children and Adults
Contact:	Charlotte Gardiner (Job Title: Project Manager/Commercial Manager, Email: charlotte.gardiner@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158763508)
Subject:	Consultation on a review of fees and charging for Adult Social Care
Total Value:	Nil (Type: Nil)
Decision Being Taken:	To consult with citizens on a review of fees and charging for Adult Social Care as set out in this report.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	<p>On 5 March 2018 the City Council, as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, approved proposals to review fees and charging for Adult Social Care.</p> <p>Nottingham City Council is committed to maintaining quality services for older, disabled and vulnerable citizens. However the number of citizens requiring these services will continue to rise over the coming years and within the climate of current budget reductions , Nottingham City needs to consider how to sustain these services.</p> <p>Adult Social Care charges are means tested and citizens who receive these services are asked to contribute towards the cost if they are assessed as being able to do so. This means testing is carried out to comply with the Government's financial assessment guidance which seeks to ensure no-one is asked to contribute more than they can afford and that citizens are accessing other benefits that might be available to them.</p>

Other Options Considered:

The law requires public consultation prior to any changes . Whilst there is no set time period for undertaking any consultation , it is suggested that one month is a reasonable time period for undertaking consultation.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and will be updated during the consultation period.

Option 1
 Nottingham City to write to all citizens receiving Day Care and Transport and ask them to complete a survey to express their views . These letters will contain a survey which can be completed electronically or in paper format . A stamped address envelope will be included . A helpline will operate Monday - Friday for citizens to contact if they have any queries or concerns or require support to complete this. The format of the letter will use " plain English" with the option of citizens contacting the helpline to request information in either different languages or formats. The survey will be available on Nottingham City Council website so wider views can be sought. Favoured

Option 2
 Nottingham City to write to all citizens who currently receive social care support (over 5000) . Whilst this approach would ensure all citizens are consulted concerning the proposed changes it is likely to raise anxiety unnecessarily , as the majority of citizens are not affected by this proposal. Not favoured

Background Papers:

None

Published Works:

City Council budget report 2018/19, 5 March 2018

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

Any Information Exempt from publication:

Yes

Exempt Information:

Description of what is exempt:

Financial details of the proposed increases and the Equality Impact Assessment as it also contains these details.

An appendix (or appendices) to this decision is exempt from publication under the following paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information because it relates to the financial and business affairs of Nottingham City Council before consultation has started.

Documents exempt from publication:

Appendix 2.docx, EIA Consultation - Fees and Charging.doc

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

Not applicable

Equality:

Please login to the system to view the EIA document: Appendix 1.docx

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

13/08/2018

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Equality and Diversity

Legal Advice:

There are no direct legal implications at this stage arising from the proposals to consult, as outlined in the report. Indeed, as identified in the report, consultation should be undertaken where such changes are proposed. The Care Act 2014 gives Councils a discretionary power to charge adult users of the services identified in the report Advice provided by Sarah Molyneux (Head of Legal and Governance) on 25/07/2018.

Finance Advice:

There are no direct financial implications stemming from a decision to consult as costs of the consultation will be met from current budget provisions. There will be an impact if a decision is taken to implement the charges proposed within this decision however this will be subject to further approval.

The income generated from the proposals will support the delivery of savings included in the Council's 2018/19+ Medium Term Financial Plan and it should be emphasised that full financial assessments will continue to be carried out such that individuals pay only what they can afford.

Advice provided by Darren Revill (Senior Commercial Business Partner) on 25/07/2018.

**Equality and Diversity
Advice:**

The proposal has the potential to adversely affect a proportion of the citizen profile to which this policy change is targeted. It will be absolutely imperative that all options are explored and that consultation take 'due regard' to the equality issues that may arise. Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 23/07/2018.

Signatures

Sam Webster (PH for Adult Social Care and Health)
SIGNED and Dated: 06/08/2018
Alison Michalska (Corporate Director for Children and Adults)
SIGNED and Dated: 06/08/2018