

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS TO COUNCIL ON FEES & CHARGES

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommend 1: Pest control delete lines for charges to residents on Housing Benefits shown as separate lines when the charges are the same (page 40-41).

Cabinet Member response: Agreed. This is historic and should have been removed.

Recommend 2: Offer concessionary fees to community bodies and small businesses for CIEH Level 2 Award Training in Food safety in Catering (page 44).

Cabinet member response: Not agreed. The charge is set to cover the cost of the course based on a minimum of 6 candidates, officer time and course material from the CIEH and we want to ensure that this discretionary service is cost neutral. If a community group approached the Council for us to run a course on their own premises a reduced fee would be offered. Estimated income £500 per annum.

COMMENTS

License charges to betting premises could be set at the maximum (pages 48-50).

There is a statutory maximum fee that can be set for each type of gambling premises. When the Gambling Act became law in 2007 councils were reluctant to set the fees at the maximum as there was a fear that the gambling industry would judicially review some just to make a point. As a result most councils tended to initially set their fees at about 70% of the maximum. However we are now 11 years into the Act and taking into account inflation and cost recovery there is no reason why fees cannot be set at the maximum level.

Delete charge for alley gate key (page 25).

The alley gate key charge is only in place for those residents that require a replacement or additional key for one of our alley gate schemes – all residents get their first upon moving into the property for free. There is a cost to the Council of replacing a key when one is lost. Estimated income £500 per annum.

CORRECTIONS

A number of small wording changes are required listed below:

Event parking closures the first word in the bracket should read 'commercial' and not 'communal' (page 20).

Beach Hut Charges – 'Ground rental' should be changed to 'Ground rental – beach hut owned' (page 29).

Beach Hut Charges - Beach Hut 'Licence fee' should be changed to 'Annual Rental' (page 29).