

FALKIRK COUNCIL

EXTRACT OF MINUTE of MEETING of the HOUSING AND SOCIAL CARE COMMITTEE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2011 at 9.30 a.m.

HSC39. 2ND UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A CHARGING POLICY FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

With reference to Minute of Meeting of the Housing and Social Care Services Committee held on 9 November 2010 (Paragraph HSC35 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 14 January 2011 by the Acting Director of Social Work Services (a) providing a second update on the implementation of the charging policy for non-residential Social Care Services which came into effect on 1 November 2010, and (b) updating on the processes being followed to implement the charging policy, the resource implications and the likely financial impact of the charging policy.

Discussion took place on the following:-

- the impact of the exceptional weather conditions during the implementation of the charging policy
- the challenges of implementing the charging policy
- highlighting the problems associated with processing a large number of invoices
- the anxiety caused to individuals receiving invoices
- misconceptions in the community and the need for good information to be made available to service users
- affordability concerns and the possible increase in the number of users choosing to withdraw from services
- the cost of administering and the projected income of the charging policy
- clarification in relation to the impact of any transport policy on service users

Councillor Blackwood, seconded by Councillor McNeill moved the recommendations contained within the Report.

Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor McNally moved the following amendment, in substitution for the recommendations namely:-

- “8.1 note the problems with the implementation of the charging policy;
- 8.2 note the projected income based on the current information and request a further more detailed report on the charges for services actually received;

- 8.3 note adjustments to the operation of the policy as set out in Paragraphs 4.1 to 4.8;
- 8.4 note the additional staffing required for the safe and robust operation of the charging policy and confirm that this should have been contained within the original report;
- 8.5 note that the report states that the 2nd stage of the charging policy will not be proceeding and that this is consistent with the decision taken by Policy and Resources Committee with regard to dropping 2nd stage charges, and
- 8.6 request the Acting Director of Social Work Services to provide a further update to the next meeting of the Housing and Social Care Committee.”

The meeting adjourned at 10.45 a.m. to allow Members to consider the terms of the proposed amendment and reconvened at 11.05 a.m. with all those Members present as per the sederunt.

On a division, 7 Members voted for the Motion and 4 Members for the Amendment.

Accordingly, **NOTED** the:-

- (1) progress achieved to date in the implementation of the charging policy and the challenges of bringing the policy into full operation and up to date;
- (2) projected income figures based on current information;
- (3) adjustments to the operation of the policy set out in Paragraphs 4.1 to 4.8 of the Report, and
- (4) additional staffing required for the safe and robust operation of the charging policy.

AGREED:-

- (1) that the current policy be further reviewed in June 2011 before considering any options to move to a second stage policy, and
- (2) that the Acting Director of Social Work Services to provide a further update in June 2011 to Members of the Housing and Social Care Committee.