
TITLE: Review of Traveller Site Rents

Committee: Corporate Governance and Finance Committee

Date: 3rd April 2017

Author: Principal Accountant

[R246]

1.0 ISSUE

- 1.1 As the Committee responsible for Finance, any changes to the Fees and Charges Schedule, as approved at Council on the 23rd February, need to be approved at this Committee. Regulatory & Support Services Committee approved an increase in rents at the traveller sites at Earith and Wentworth at their meeting on the 20th March. The decision therefore needs to be confirmed by this Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Members are requested to:

Approve the increase of rent to £85 per week, per pitch for both Earith and Wentworth Traveller sites to be effective from 1st April 2017.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

- 3.1 The Housing Department have undertaken a benchmarking exercise with other traveller sites in the sub-region and have found that this Council's rents are one of the lowest. Therefore it is considered appropriate to review these rents to bring them into line with other sites across the sub-region.
- 3.2 The current weekly rental amount per pitch is £75 at Earith and £66 at Wentworth. The Council currently increases the rent payable annually by £1.00 per pitch. The Council has 11 plots at Earith and 9 at Wentworth which currently generates an annual income of £91,844 including a service charge.
- 3.3 To bring the rents in line with other authorities it is recommended that from the 1st April 2017 rental amounts are increased to £85 per week on both sites. This would see an increase of £10 per pitch, per week for Earith and £19 for Wentworth.
- 3.4 Approval of the rent increase will generate an additional annual income of £14,652 per annum (compared to 2016-17) and the total income would increase to £106,496.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Increasing the rents on both sites will bring the traveller sites in line with other local authority sites.
- 4.2 The additional income generated will allow the Council to invest in improvements at both the Earith and Wentworth sites.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 Approval of the rent increase will generate an additional annual income (compared to 2016-17) of £14,652 per annum.

Background Documents

Regulatory and Support
Services Committee paper
– 20th March 2017

Location

Room 102

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