
TITLE: REVIEW OF TRAVELLER SITE RENTS

Committee: Regulatory and Support Services Committee

Date: 20th March 2017

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[R225]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 Whether a rent increase should be applied to the Earith and Wentworth Traveller sites.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 Members are requested to:

- (i) Approve the increase of rent to £85 per week per pitch for Earith and Wentworth Traveller sites to be effective from 1st April 2017.
- (ii) Agree that the Housing & Community Safety Manager carries out a further review of the service charges for both Earith and Wentworth and bring a report back to committee in 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 the Council's rents are one of the lowest. Two other authorities currently have their rents under review. Therefore it is considered prudent 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 (Earith) and £66 (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.

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. This would see an increase of £10 per pitch, per week for Earith and £19 and Wentworth respectively.

3.4 Approval of the rent increase will generate an additional annual income of £15,652 per annum and the total income would increase to £107,496.

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.

4.3 This Council has already committed a £110 - £120k spend to replace the sewage treatment works at Wentworth and the increase will be used to part fund the works.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 Approval of the rent increase will generate an additional annual income of £15,652 per annum.

Background Documents

Location

Room 102

Contact Officer

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