

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET EXECUTIVE**

**20 February 2018**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** County Councillor Stephen Hayes  
Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

**SUBJECT:** Increase in charges for Community Based Services

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision

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**1. Summary**

The maximum charge for Community Based Social Care Services is set by the Welsh Government. It is currently £70 per week, and has been since April 2017.

The maximum charge will increase to £100 per week by the end of the current Assembly Government in 2021. This increase is part of the Taking Wales Forward Commitment.

There is likely to be an incremental increase each financial year. Welsh Government plan to announce the increase prior to April annually in readiness for the start of each financial year.

This report proposes a process to agreeing the increase maximum charge in Powys annually.

**2. Proposal**

This report recommends that any increase to the maximum weekly charge for Community Based Social Care Services, in line with the set maximum charge set by the Welsh Government each financial year, will be at the discretion of the Cabinet Members with responsibility for Adult Social Care and Finance, in consultation with the Director of Social Services. This will be undertaken by provision of a Portfolio Holder's Decision Report. This will allow the Cabinet Members the ability to increase the charge to the maximum set by Welsh Government without the need for a report to Cabinet.

**3. Options Considered / Available**

**Option 1**

That the Cabinet Members with responsibility for Adult Social Care and Finance, in consultation with the Director of Social Services are given the discretion to set the maximum charge up to the maximum charge for Community Based Services as set by Welsh Government each financial year. This will be undertaken by provision of a Portfolio Holder's Decision Report.

Increases around unit costs for Community Based Services will still need to be agreed by Cabinet. A report will be need to be considered by Cabinet for any such increases including the full impacts.

## **Option 2**

That a report is submitted to Cabinet prior to the start of each financial year and after Welsh Government has announced the maximum charge for Community Based Services. Cabinet will then either agree or disagree to increase the maximum charge for Community Based Services payable by the citizens of Powys

## **4. Preferred Choice and Reasons**

The recommended option is Option 1.

In previous years, Welsh Government have made announcements regarding changes very close to the start of the financial year. This has meant Cabinet reports being prepared without adequate time for decision making.

It is likely that Cabinet Members with responsibility for Adult Social Care and Finance, in consultation with the Director of Social Services, will choose to increase the maximum charge in line with the maximum amount set by the Welsh Government. This has been the case since 2011 when the maximum charge was introduced. Allowing the Cabinet Members with responsibility for Adult Social Care and Finance, in consultation with the Director of Social Services, to implement the increase without a referral to Cabinet will streamline this process and will provide more time for service users and carers to prepare to meet the increased charges.

## **5. Impact Assessment**

5.1 Is an impact assessment required? Yes

5.2 If yes is it attached? Yes

## **6. Corporate Improvement Plan**

6.1 This proposal will streamline decision making within the Council and will maximise income generation in line with national policy.

## **7. Local Member(s)**

7.1 This proposal will have the same impact across the whole County of Powys.

## **8. Other Front Line Services**

8.1 Does the recommendation impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council? Yes

If so please provide their comments

8.2 There will be an impact on the work of the Income and Awards section which has been involved in preparing this report.

## **9. Communications**

9.1 Have Communications seen a copy of this report? Yes

9.2 Have they made a comment? The report is of public interest and requires use of news release and appropriate social media to publicise the decision. It will be of interest a potential 42% increase in fees.

## **10. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)**

10.1 Legal; The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view

10.2 Finance – The Finance Business Partner notes the content of the report and supports the recommendation. It is essential that income is maximised but the impact is unknown until revised financial assessments are undertaken for all service users.

## **11. Scrutiny**

11.1 Has this report been scrutinised?

It will be scrutinised prior to Cabinet consideration.

## **12. Statutory Officers**

12.1 The Acting Section 151 Officer agrees that Option 1 will ensure uplifts to charging is actioned promptly after the annual announcement from Welsh Government to allow time to get assessments and revised bills updated, thus maximising income to the authority.

12.2 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: "I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report".

## **13. Members' Interests**

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
To allow option 1	Income of the Council is optimised

<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>	The Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014
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<b>Within Policy:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Within Budget:</b>	<b>Y</b>
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<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>	<b>Councillor Stephen Hayes</b>
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<b>Person(s) To Implement Decision:</b>	<b>Head of Transformation</b>
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<b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> April 2018</b>
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