

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive Forward Plan Reference	E2134
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Fairer Contributions for Non-Residential Social Services

Decision maker/s	Cllr Vic Pritchard, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services & Housing
The Issue	Fairer Contributions for Non-Residential Social Services
Decision Date	28/05/2010
The decision	The Cabinet Member agrees that the single <i>Fairer Contributions Policy for Non-Residential Social Care Services in Bath & North East Somerset</i> is adopted for use in relation to all new users of non-residential social care services from May 2010 and that Option Three outlined in the full report is implemented.
Rationale for decision	Option Three – Increase minimum income protection buffer from nationally prescribed minimum of 25% to 30%, no cap on potential contributions plus protection until April 2011 By raising the basic level of protected income from 25% to 30% for all new and existing users this option offers an enhanced standard offer to everyone, particularly those on a low income and may help to allay some of the fears expressed during consultation in relation to affordability
Financial and budget implications	Enhanced threshold protection for all combined with a protection period for those who may have to contribute more is balanced against a healthy level of income generation both in the short and longer term. A 30% minimum income protection buffer is likely to generate in the region of £650k assuming the same 70% tolerance level as in option two. This option meets the requirements of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan
Issues considered	<i>Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Human Resources; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Corporate;</i>
Consultation undertaken	<i>Ward Councillor; Cabinet members; Overview & Scrutiny Panel; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer</i>
How consultation was carried out	Section 2 of the main report sets out the arrangements for consultation and engagement and summarises findings. Appendix One details all consultation feedback received

<p>Other options considered</p>	<p>Option One in the main report was rejected on the basis that it would not meet the requirements of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan</p> <p><i>Option One – Cap on potential contributions, apply nationally prescribed 25% minimum income protection buffer, protection for existing users until April 2011</i></p> <p>This option offers a good level of protection for both new and existing service users however the potential for income generation is more limited both in the short term and in the longer term. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan assumes an additional £235k income in 2010/11 and a further £240k in 2011/12 from a revision of charging policy; option one is unlikely to achieve this. Consultation suggests that people feel it is a more equitable approach to ask those who can afford to contribute more to do so therefore a cap on contributions is not a preferred option</p> <p>Option Two was also rejected on the basis that an enhanced minimum income protection buffer, as set out in the preferred option, was desirable</p> <p><i>Option Two – Apply nationally prescribed 25% minimum income protection buffer, no cap on potential contributions plus protection for existing users until April 2011</i></p> <p>This option provides protection to existing users, 72% of whom would be likely to see an increase in their contribution after the protection period. The removal of the cap would ensure that those who can afford to contribute more do so, therefore income generation would increase both in the short term from new users and in the longer term when protection arrangements come to an end. This option is more likely to ensure that the requirements of the Medium Term Financial Plan are achieved. Income generation using a 25% buffer would be in the region of £760k assuming a 70% tolerance level used for modelling purposes</p>
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<p>Signatures of Decision Makers</p>	<p>Cllr Vic Pritchard</p>
<p>Date of Signature</p>	<p>28th May 2010</p>