



# NON-RESIDENTIAL CARE CHARGING POLICY CONSULTATION

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 70/17

11 SEPTEMBER 2017

The purpose of this paper is to ask Members to determine the Town Council's response to the current Isle of Wight Council consultation on possible changes to its Non-residential Care Charging Policy.

## No. DETAILS

### 1) BACKGROUND

- a) At its meeting of 15 June 2017 the Isle of Wight Council's Cabinet adopted the recommendation of Paper C for that meeting headed *To approve a Consultation on Changes to the Non-residential Care Charging Policy*, that
  - 1) *a two month consultation on changes to the way the council considers disability benefits at the higher or enhanced rate as part of a person's income when making charges for non-residential care with affected service users, stakeholders and interested groups, to include the general public, and the consideration of a further report to Cabinet detailing the results of the consultation exercise be agreed.*
  - 2) *the seeking of a final decision as to how to regard and (disregard) all disability related benefits income when charging for adult social care, be agreed.*
- b) The Town Council considered Paper C at its meeting of 10 July and agreed to contribute to the consultation.
- c) The consultation opened on 16 August and closes on 16 October on the basis of details set out on the Isle of Wight Council's website [here](#).
- d) The decision will be made at the meeting of the Isle of Wight Council's Full Council on 9 November 2017.

### 2) TARGET GROUP

- a) The target group is the 900 Island Residents of the 1,090 in receipt of Attendance Allowance (AA), Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payments (PiP) who also receive chargeable non-residential care services.
- b) All residents in receipt of any of these benefits are subject to a means test to determine whether they should pay for some or all of the support services they receive at home.

### 3) PROPOSED CHANGES

- a) Chargeable services include: Home care, Day care and day opportunities/activities, Bath in day care settings, Individual assistance, Community Alarm (Lifeline), Telecare, Personal Budgets (for those buying their own care), Sitting service, Extra care, Shared Lives Scheme, Transport, Meal in day care setting.
- b) The means test administered within the Isle of Wight Council's *Charging Policy for Non-Residential Social Care Services* includes the income from any of the three benefits in section (2) above at the lower level of each of them.
- c) The proposal to be consulted on is that the higher/enhanced level be used in future, a difference of £27.45 a week or £1,427 a year.

### 4) RATIONALE

- a) The information included in the consultation gives the two reasons for the proposed changes:  
*The proposed changes are being considered to ensure everybody who receives disability benefit income is treated equally and has the full amount of these benefits included as part of their income calculation in this means test. The proposals seek to ensure that all income is taken into account for those people who receive these benefits. This is a change in the current arrangements where the income from these benefits is assumed to be at the lower rates only – regardless of whether or not the person receives the higher rates.*

*Currently, people who receive these benefits at the higher or enhanced rate have the difference*

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*between the lower and higher rates effectively ignored for purposes of means testing for adult social care. By way of contrast, those people who receive the lower, middle or standard rates of these benefits have all this income taken into consideration in the means test.*

*The proposal will also assist the IW Council in meeting its savings targets. Adult Social Care must save £4.5 million in 2018/19.*

- b) It adds the information that of the 52 other Local Authorities' approached for information on their practices in this area, 22 currently include these benefits at the higher level, 17 use the lower level and the other 13 did not respond to the request for information.
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#### 5) CONSULTATION RESPONSE

- a) The approach to the consultation set out in the Cabinet Paper *To approve a Consultation on Changes to the Non-residential Care Charging Policy* included writing directly to those currently paying the charges with an invitation to complete a questionnaire.
- b) Paragraph 15 of the Paper added: *in addition to consulting directly with users of the council's non-residential care services and key stakeholders, it is considered important to also seek the views of potential users of our care services, parish councils and Isle of Wight residents more generally.*
- c) There has been no direct contact with Town and Parish Councils and they are not listed in the web site survey provided for responses:

2. Which of the following options best describes you? (Please select one option only)

- I receive social care which is paid for in full, or in part, by Isle of Wight Council (including Direct Payments)
- I am an unpaid carer (for example, a family member or friend of someone who receives social care paid for by Isle of Wight Council)
- I am a representative of an organisation which provides social care services
- I am a representative of a voluntary, independent or community organisation
- I am a council employee
- I am an NHS employee
- None of the above
- Prefer not to say

- d) The Town Council has normally responded to the Isle of Wight Council by writing directly to the relevant Officer and Portfolio Holder: Dr Carol Tozer, the Isle of Wight Council's Director of Adult Services and Clare Mosdell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health in this instance.
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#### 6) RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to agree a response to the current consultation and authorise its Clerk to send it to Dr Carol Tozer, the Isle of Wight Council's Director of Adult Services and Clare Mosdell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

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