

CABINET**Tuesday, 22nd March, 2016**

Present:-

Councillor Burrows (Chair)

Councillors	T Gilby	Councillors	Huckle
	T Murphy		Ludlow
	Blank		Serjeant
Non Voting	Bagley		Innes
Members	Brown		Wall

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

174 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

No declarations of interest were received.

175 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Diouf and Hollingworth.

176 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 8 March, 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

177 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period 1 April to 31 July, 2016 was reported for information.

*** RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

178 MICROCHIPPING OF DOGS REGULATIONS 2015

The Senior Environmental Health Officer presented a report to inform members about the Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015 along with proposals to enable the enforcement of the provisions of the new regulations.

The report outlined the changes to the law from 6 April, 2016 which included:

- All dogs over 8 weeks old must be microchipped,
- A keeper who imports a dog must ensure that the dog is microchipped within 30 days of importing the dog,
- Where a dog is transferred to a new keeper, the new keeper must, unless the previous keeper has already done so, record their full name, address and contact telephone number and any change in dog's name with the database on which the dog's details are recorded,
- A keeper (which includes the breeder) must not transfer a dog to a new keeper until it has been microchipped.

The report included details on the procedure once a non-microchipped dog has been identified. A draft copy of the 'Notice to Microchip' was included in appendix A of the officer's report. It would be a criminal offence to fail to comply with the Notice and the regulations could be enforced by either Chesterfield Borough Council or Derbyshire Police. The regulations would be valid until 24 February, 2022 at which point they would be reviewed.

The report outlined the procedure for handling stray dogs and the financial implications and responsibilities of the council.

The report noted that the council has two Enforcement Officers that are legally permitted to microchip dogs and the council currently charges £16 per microchip and this could be done in the owner's home.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the proposals set out within the officer's report be approved to enable the enforcement of the provisions of The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015.

2. That the necessary amendments to the Constitution be approved to enable the enforcement of the Regulations.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

Microchipping is a permanent form of identification which is intended to increase the likelihood of lost and stray dogs being reunited with their owners and to increase the speed at which this can be achieved.

If a dog strays (stray dogs put the public at risk through potential attack and road traffic incidents) the Dog Warden is able to locate the keeper in an attempt to ensure that the dog does not stray again.

179 TENANTS SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

The Housing Manager introduced a report on the results of the Survey of Tenants and Residents (STAR) carried out in Autumn 2015.

The STAR was a voluntary undertaking which replaced the Standardised Tenants Satisfaction Survey (STATUS) that had, until 2010, been a mandatory requirement.

The housing performance benchmarking company HouseMark had developed the STAR survey to equip housing providers with a means of comparing satisfaction with their services. Housing Services had commissioned the Policy Team to undertake the survey on their behalf.

The report included details of the results of the survey and noted that overall satisfaction with the service had risen from 87.5% in 2013 to 88.0% in 2015.

Housing Services, in conjunction with a Tenant Focus Group, planned to examine the results and identify further areas for improvement; an action plan would then be developed to address those areas.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the outcomes of the Survey of Tenants and Residents that was carried out in the autumn of 2015 be noted.
2. That a further report be brought to Cabinet identifying any areas for improvement and the associated actions arising from the survey.

REASON FOR DECISION

To contribute to achieving the Council's priority 'to provide value for money services' and value 'Customer focused – delivering great customer service, meeting customer needs'.

180 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED -

That under Regulation 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information))

181 **REVIEW OF SPORTS AND LEISURE FEES AND CHARGES 2016/17**

The Sport and Leisure Manager submitted a report recommending for approval proposed changes to the fees and charges for Indoor Sport and Leisure facilities to take effect from 1 April, 2016.

The Sport and Leisure manager advised that the review of fees and charges had taken into account the economic challenges that faced the Council and local communities. The report noted that the Sport and Leisure Service needed to operate in a more business-like manner but maintain a balance of affordable access to services.

In addition, the fees and charges proposals had taken into account:

- The need for the Council to achieve a balanced budget,
- The fees and charges structures of other local public and private sector providers,
- Quality and mix of provision at the sports centres,
- Health inequalities,
- Value for money considerations,
- The Council's corporate priorities,
- Customer expectations,
- The need for concessionary pricing to have a positive impact in communities and address inactivity.

The report outlined changes to the Change4Life criteria which included the new concession arrangements that would be applied on a means basis using the criteria to be agreed corporately.

It was reported that the new QPSC had been registered for VAT; as a result the exempt payments made by regular bookings would be subject to VAT being paid. All the clubs had been advised of the changes and the impact and implications would be addressed in the setting of future fees and charges.

It was also reported that over 1300 new memberships at QPSC had been sold by February 2016 and the HLC had received record sales for December 2015 and January 2016.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the proposed charges for Queen's Park Sport Centre and the Healthy Living Centre for 2016/17, as detailed in appendix A of the officer's report, be approved and implemented from 1 April, 2016.
2. That the amended charging policy, as detailed at appendix C of the officer's report, be approved with immediate effect.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

To ensure the Council's fees and charges for Sport and Leisure Indoor facilities best place the service to achieve the 2020 corporate objectives.

To manage performance of the Councils overall financial position and reduce the overall cost of Sport and Leisure provision by the Council to a sustainable position – ideally breakeven.

To support the Council's corporate plan, develop social capital and community resilience; in particular improving health and well-being in the borough and the workplace.

To improve customer service, quality of provision, accessible service programming and overall participation levels of sport, physical activity and health in the borough.

To support identified target groups in taking part in activities through access to a wide range of opportunities including concessionary pricing.