

Report for Nantwich Town Council Policy Committee

Item 5

Date of Meeting: 26th November 2020

Town Council Income

1. Purpose of Report

To consider proposals for the various income streams of the town council for 2021/22

2. Background

Throughout 2020 officers have been working on the resolutions of the town council to develop open and transparent rent setting policies for allotments and market rents. Council recently approved the allotments rent setting policy which for 2021 will result in an estimated income similar to that of 2019/20, £8750.

This report brings together details of proposals for the fees and charges for 2021/22 for all town council service areas.

3. Considerations

Civic Hall and Brookfield Hall fees and charges – The attached appendix shows proposals for the fees and charges for the hire of Civic Hall facilities from April 2021. The recommendation is to retain the existing charges due to the impact on the wider community from the pandemic in 2020, it is important to retain an affordable charge to aid in the recovery of local community groups and events.

Market rents – Officers have worked on developing a fair, open and transparent rent setting policy. In consultation with representatives of market traders the attached document provides recommendations for the introduction of a policy which will aid in future rent setting. The figures associated with the draft policy (attached), whilst there will see some traders rent increase, where other traders rent will decrease. In addition, based on these proposals it will result in a rent income equal to that received on a weekly basis in 2020/21, so the town council will not gain financially from the proposals.

Allotment rents – The Town Council has approved the rent setting policy for allotments, but the attached leaflet has been prepared detailing the rent setting policy for allotment holders. Again, the estimated income for the year is equal to that received in 2019/20 of £8750.

Members are also asked to consider the delegation of authority to the Town Clerk and/or Facilities Manager to negotiate fees should the need arise particularly in relation to the fees associated with the Civic Hall and Brookfield Hall. The officers would always ensure any negotiation would remain financially viable for the Town Council.

4. Recommendations

4.1 That members consider the proposals for fees and charges relating to the Civic Hall, Brookfield Hall, market rents and allotment rents, and make recommendations for approval by full council;

4.2 That members support the delegation of authority to the Clerk and/or Facilities Manager to negotiate fees relating to the Civic Hall and Brookfield Hall

5. Financial Implications

The estimated income associated with the proposals has already been considered with the draft budget proposals, also taking into account the likely impact of the income from Covid-19.

6. Equalities Impact

The draft rent setting policies for allotments and market rents are fair, open and transparent. The allotment policy also allows for concessionary reductions for those in receipt of state pension.

7. Personnel Implications

n/a

8. Environmental implications

The aim of the proposed policy, in addition to it being transparent is to make the take up of allotments more attractive. Allotments provide many environmental benefits to the community.

9. Consultation

The Clerk and Facilities Manager have worked with representatives from the Allotments Association and representatives of the market traders.