

Title of report: Service Cost Recovery Update.

Meeting: Scrutiny Management Board

Meeting date: Tuesday 7 November 2023

Report by: Director of Economy and Environment

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

The purpose of this report, as set out in Appendix 1, is to provide the Scrutiny Management Board with an update identifying opportunities to improve the Council's service cost recovery position.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- a) The Scrutiny Management Board, having regard to the information presented in Appendix 1 notes the report and,**
- b) Determines any recommendations it wishes to make to inform the service cost recovery position.**

Alternative options

1. None identified, this report provides an update to the Scrutiny Management Board.

Key considerations

2. Identify how services' cost recovery compares with other authorities.
3. Identify opportunities to enhance services' cost recovery, unless there is a legal barrier to recovering costs.
4. Promote council fees and charges which reflect the full costs of service delivery, including management costs, capital costs and corporate overheads incurred whilst delivering services.
5. Identify opportunities to upscale delivery of Herefordshire Council's chargeable services.

Community impact

6. This report seeks to maximise its beneficial impact on communities by updating the Scrutiny Management Board on the service cost recovery work stream.

Environmental Impact

7. The council provides and purchases a wide range of services for the people of Herefordshire. Together with partner organisations in the private, public and voluntary sectors we share a strong commitment to improving our environmental sustainability, achieving carbon neutrality and to protect and enhance Herefordshire's outstanding natural environment.

Equality duty

8. The Scrutiny Management Board should consider the impact of service cost recovery on disadvantaged groups.
9. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Resource implications

10. There are no new resource implications arising from this report.

Legal implications

11. The Scrutiny Management Board should undertake the scrutiny role in relation to areas which are cross cutting in nature eg. Corporate Strategy and Finance (Budget), People and Performance and Corporate Support.
12. Where a matter falls within the remit of one or more Scrutiny Committees, the Scrutiny Management Board will decide which Committee will consider it and whether a spotlight, task and finish or standing panel review is appropriate
13. Budget, Treasury Management, Approve an annual work programme for itself and the other scrutiny committees.
14. Oversee communications to members and public in relation to scrutiny matters.

Risk management

15. There are no new risk implications arising from this report.

Consultees

16. None

Appendices

17. Appendix 1 - Thrive SCR - Update for SMB

Background papers

18. None.

Report Reviewers Used for appraising this report:

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