

POLICY ON THE USE OF THE COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES

Item CH 21/14 referred from Communities and Housing Advisory Board of 25 May 2021

The report of the Director of Central Services and the Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services set out proposals for a Policy on the Use of the Council's Open Spaces and explained how applications would be assessed.

There had been an increased level of interest about using open spaces as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, which had identified a need for an overarching policy on how applications would be assessed and managed.

The Policy also introduced an administration fee for processing applications, set out a proposed charging structure and the criteria against which a charge would be assessed.

Members supported the introduction of a Policy on the Use of Open Spaces to offer clarity to potential users. However, it was felt that evidence of professional qualifications for certain activities should be part of the assessment criteria to provide reassurance. In addition, Members felt that an annual fee schedule for regular activities would be beneficial.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the Policy on the Use of the Council's Open Spaces (attached at Annex 1) be adopted, subject to consideration of:
 - there being a requirement for membership of a relevant professional association for certain activities, including professional dog walking;
- (2) administration fees and charges are introduced as detailed in the Policy, subject to consideration of
 - an annual fee schedule for regular activities being outlined
- (3) delegated authority be granted to the Cabinet Members for Finance, Innovation and Property and Community Services to consider and determine appeals; and
- (4) delegated authority be granted to the Cabinet Members for Finance, Innovation and Property and Community Services to determine fees and charges in exceptional circumstances.

***Referred to Council**