

EXECUTIVE – 13 JULY 2023

## **RECOMMENDATION FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PUBLIC REALM USAGE POLICY – SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT**

### **Executive Summary**

The Executive is requested to consider the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. At its meeting on 10 July 2023, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee received the Executive report 'Public Realm Usage Policy' as pre-decision scrutiny. An extract from the minutes is set out below:

"Members sought confirmation that it was permissible to charge different prices to entities dependent on their size and locality. The legal Officer provided their opinion that a variable charge was at the discretion of the Council.

Officers confirmed that there was no appeal process if an organisation was refused use of the public realm space.

The Committee recommended that individuals' names and contacts be replaced with positions and departments responsible in the event that individuals were to stop working for the Council.

The Committee discussed whether, given the Council's financial position, it could afford to provide the services for free, or if they should be charged at cost. The Committee recognised that the costs could be discretionary, particularly to ensure that charities were not burdened financially. Officers considered that an analysis would need to be performed to determine this. The Committee agreed to adopt a recommendation that could be put to the Executive to consider how the service could be cost neutral but not harm charities.

### **Recommended to the Executive that**

- (i) it be noted that the Public Realm Usage Policy was welcomed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;**
- (ii) every effort be made to ensure that such a policy be delivered on a cost neutral basis; and**
- (iii) due consideration be given such that charities not be financially burdened by the policy."**

The Executive has the authority to determine the recommendations set out above.
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**Recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Public Realm Usage Policy  
Supplementary Report**

**Background Papers:** None.

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