

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3 March 2022

Call-in – Portfolio Holder Decision Country Parks Fees and Charges 2022/23

Recommendations

That Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the call-in request.

1. Key Issues/Background

- 1.1. On 18 February 2022, the Portfolio Holder for Environment Climate and Culture considered the proposals as outlined in the Country Parks Fees and Charges 2022/23 report a copy of which is attached as Appendix A.
- 1.2. The Decision is attached as Appendix B.
- 1.3. Following the publication of the decision it was called-in by Councillors Kate Rolfe, Jenny Fradgley, Bill Gifford and Jerry Roodhouse. The reasons for the call-in were given as:
 - 1.3.1. There was no consultation with members who have country parks in their divisions which was undemocratic as members did not get the opportunity to make their concerns, on behalf of their residents, known to the portfolio holder.
 - 1.3.2. There should have been a dialogue and forewarning of any proposals so that divisional members could have had some involvement.
 - 1.3.3. The increase is an unfair steep increase, over the rate of inflation, which will have an adverse impact on people who use our country parks.
- 1.4. A response to the areas of concern set out in the call-in request is attached as Appendix C.
- 1.5. The procedure for call in is set out in Standing Order 13. Having considered the call-in request, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may (i) refer the matter back to the decision maker for reconsideration setting out in writing the nature of its concerns or (ii) decide to take no action.
- 1.6. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the matter and decide whether to return the matter to the Portfolio Holder for

reconsideration with an explanation of its concerns or to take no action (with or without comment) in which case the Portfolio Holder's decision will be implemented with immediate effect.

2. Environmental Implications

None

3. Financial Implications

None

4. Appendices

Appendix A – Portfolio Holder Report 18 February 2022

Appendix B - Decision of Portfolio Holder dated 18 February 2022

Appendix C - Response to the areas of concern raised in the Call in Notice.

5. Background papers

5.1 Call In request

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