

Social Care charging policy for 2025/26 approved.

5 Councillor Cunningham, City Convener for Health, Care & Caring and Older People, presented a report regarding a revised Social Care charging policy for 2025/26, advising

- (1) that the Social Care charging policy, as detailed in Appendix A to the report, set out the Council's Social Work Services charging policy with a focus on non-residential charging, together with the legislative background to charges for non-residential social care services and described the services to which service user contributions applied, together with minimum income thresholds and tapers, which had been updated to reflect various changes, as detailed in the report; and
- (2) that the annual review process had taken into consideration a range of factors, as detailed in the report and the proposed changes for this year's review to reflect Regulations coming into force on 7th April 2025 were as follows:-
 - (a) an increase in the Local Authority rates to reflect the increased cost of delivery with most charges having a 5% uplift, with the exception of hot meals which would see a 13% uplift;
 - (b) there would be no increase to aids and adaptations, minimal limits or the blue badge administration;
 - (c) an increase to the Minimum Income Thresholds and Interim Charges in accordance with the annual Department for Work and Pensions/Social Security Scotland benefit uplifts;
 - (d) a new charge of £100 for the supply and installation of a key box;
 - (e) for the transition from analogue to digital telecare, the Community Alarm unit cost for 2025/26 would be held at the existing level of £4.15 and the unit cost would be reviewed for 2026/27 to ensure future cost recovery; and
 - (f) the exclusion of Infected Blood Compensation Payments from the financial assessment, in accordance with the new COSLA guidance.

After consideration, the committee approved the revised Social Care charging policy for 2025/26, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, as directed by the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) in support of the delivery of Council services in accordance with the IJB's Strategic Plan.