



**Glasgow City Council**

**City Administration Committee**

**Report by Councillor Chris Cunningham, City Convener for  
Health, Care & Caring and Older People**

**Contact: Pat Togher Ext: 78853**

**Item 6**

**27th March 2025**

**SOCIAL CARE CHARGING POLICY 2025/26**

**Purpose of Report:**

To update Committee on the Social Care Charging Policy annual uplift and revision for 2025/26.

**Recommendations:**

City Administration Committee is asked to:

- a) Approve the revised Charging Policy for Social Care for 2025/26 attached at Appendix 1 as directed by the IJB in support of delivery of council services in accordance with the IJBs strategic plan.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

## **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the City Administration Committee on the Social Care Charging Policy annual uplift and revision for 2025/26.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 The purpose of the Social Care Charging Policy is to determine when charges should be applied for social care services taking into consideration a full range of legal, financial and policy drivers. The Policy sets the charges that apply to social care services and how those charges are levied to service users. The Social Care Charging Policy is subject to annual review.
- 2.2 The IJB has approved its budget for 2025-26. The increase to charges was included as part of the balanced budget set on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The Council has been directed to deliver Council services in line with this budget to secure delivery of the IJBs Strategic Plan and as such this Committee is directed to amend the charging policy to secure the income included within this budget.

## **3 Social Care Charging Policy**

- 3.1 The Social Care Charging Policy is a document which sets out the Council's Social Work Services Charging Policy with a focus on Non-Residential Charging. The Glasgow City Council Charging Policy sets out the legislative background to charges for non-residential social care services and describes the services to which service user contributions apply, together with minimum income thresholds and tapers.
- 3.2 For 2025 the charging policy was extensively reviewed with revised layout and simplified wording. The aim of this review was to meet easy read protocols and maximise transparency and accessibility. Although significantly different in appearance, the actual changes to charges have been commensurate with annual reviews of the policy. These are detailed below.
- 3.3 The annual review process will take a range of factors into consideration:
- COSLA Guidance for Non-Residential Charging
  - Uplifts required to service charges to reflect cost of service delivery
  - Any changes required to the levers within the charging policy, which determine the level of charge made to service users, to reflect the income levels required to be generated to meet budgetary requirements
  - Any changes required to the policy to reflect changes in legislation, local or national policies
  - Views of service users and providers which were collated as part of the second bi-annual consultation on the policy, which took place from 20 January to 3 February 2025.

- Any refinements required to reflect service experiences from the previous twelve months.

3.4 The proposed changes from this year's review are:

- Updated to reflect Regulations coming into force on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025.
- An increase in Local Authority rates to reflect the increased cost of delivery. Most charges will see a 5% uplift other than Hot Meals at 13%. There are no increases to aids and adaptations minimal limits or blue badge administration.
- An increase to Minimum Income Thresholds and Interim Charges in accordance with annual Department for Work and Pensions/Social Security Scotland benefit uplifts.
- A new charge for key box supply and installation of £100. This service was previously chargeable through a commissioned service and has been brought in house.
- An update to reflect more accurate costings for the transition from analogue to digital telecare. The differential between the anticipated costs and actual costs has not been as high as originally anticipated. It is proposed to hold the existing Community Alarm unit cost at the same level for everyone transitioning to digital telecare for 2025/26 at £4.15. This unit cost will be reviewed for 2026/27 to ensure future cost recovery.
- Exclusion of Infected Blood Compensation Payments from the financial assessment, in accordance with new Cosla guidance.

3.5 The proposed increases to charges were included within the IJB Budget that was considered and approved by the IJB on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

3.6 The revised policy is attached in Appendix A for approval.

## 4 Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	The annual uplift to Local Authority charges will result in additional income of £0.080m and has been reflected in the IJBs budget for 2025/26.
<i>Legal:</i>	None
<i>Personnel:</i>	None
<i>Procurement:</i>	None

**Council Strategic Plan:** Grand Challenge 1 – Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities. Mission 3: Improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities.

**Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.*

Yes. Outcome 3. Service Users are provided with information accessible to them on services provided by the Council Family, particularly, those who face barriers through disability, language and digital exclusion.

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?*

Socio-economic impact for those experiencing poverty. Those with disabilities experience a higher cost of living and are at a higher risk of living in poverty. Minority ethnic communities are more likely to be living in poverty compared to white people. Muslims suffer the greatest economic disadvantage of any group in society.

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.*

Although it won't help address socio-economic disadvantage, there are mitigations and exceptions in place to address the socio-economic impact of the policy.

The National Assistance Regulations are subject to a separate EQIA undertaken by the Scottish Government.

The EQIA link relating to this policy can be found at:

[https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/media/18571/Social-Care-Charging-Policy-2025-26/pdf/EqIA\\_Social\\_Care\\_Charging\\_Policy\\_2025\\_26.pdf?m=1741616303237](https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/media/18571/Social-Care-Charging-Policy-2025-26/pdf/EqIA_Social_Care_Charging_Policy_2025_26.pdf?m=1741616303237)

This is provided to assist committee in having regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty and should be considered prior to considering the recommendation of this report.

**Climate Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support any Climate*

No

*Plan actions? Please specify:*

*What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?*      None

*Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?*      No

**Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:**

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report  
Y/N No      No

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

**5 Recommendations**

5.1 City Administration Committee is asked to:

- a) Approve the revised Charging Policy for Social Care for 2025/26 attached at Appendix 1 as directed by the IJB in support of delivery of council services in accordance with the IJBs strategic plan.