

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 APRIL 2020

URGENCY ITEMS - MINUTE OF DECISION

Delegation arrangements for dealing with matters of urgency

Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution provides that Chief Officers may take urgent decisions if they are of the opinion that circumstances exist which make it necessary for action to be taken by the Council prior to the time when such action could be approved through normal Council Procedures. They shall, where practicable, first consult with the Leader and Chairman (or in their absence the Vice-Chairman) and the Opposition Spokesperson of the appropriate committee.

Subject:

To approve the deferral of the use of the Castle House Concessions Policy, as approved at Council 9th March 2020, for the period of one financial year.

Appropriate Committee:

Policy & Finance Committee

Details of Item and Decision Taken:

The decision was taken by Council on 9th March 2020 to approve the Castle House Concessions Policy.

This policy was developed in order to ensure a transparent process of approving concessions for partners within Castle House. The policy stated that the maximum concession would be 50% of the total charge of £4,420.

Due to the circumstances that have arisen post the Council meeting regarding the Coronavirus outbreak, it is proposed to defer the use of this policy for one financial year, to ensure that partners within Castle House are not impacted by any increase in their charge based on this policy for the 2020/21 financial year.

As the policy states, the move to Castle House provided a unique opportunity to co-locate with partners which has enabled public services to be joined-up around the needs of customers. In the current climate, the needs of our customers is of paramount importance to ensure that they get a co-ordinated response across public services.

Due to the exceptional and unprecedented circumstances that have arisen since the approval of the Policy, and the urgent need to give the Council's partners some certainty and relief in respect of their budgets which are under extreme pressure at the current time, it is felt that the application of the policy should be deferred.

Financial Implications (FIN19-20/8702)

The Council's budget as approved on 9th March 2020, included the current concession values within the income for Castle House and as such, this will not affect the level of income to be generated from Castle House licences.

Decision

That the Council defer the application of the newly adopted Concessions policy for one financial year and apply the current concession values for partners occupying Castle House for the 2020/21 financial year.

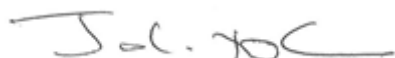
Members Consulted:

Councillor David Lloyd
Leader of the Council – 19/03/20

Councillor Paul Peacock
Leader of the Labour Group – 19/03/20

Councillor Peter Harris
Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group – 19/03/20

Councillor Gill Dawn
Leader of the Independent Group – 19/03/20



Signed
John Robinson - Chief Executive

Date: 19/03/20