

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet **DATE:** 9th February 2015
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PART I **NON-KEY DECISION**

REFERENCES FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet of recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 5th February 2015, in relation to the Revenue Budget 2015/16 and Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16.

2. Recommendations

Revenue Budget 2015/16

The Cabinet is requested to resolve that Officers be authorised to investigate the feasibility of implementing a Residents Card for differential fee rates for Residents and Non Residents, on a range of services, including sport pitch hire.

Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16

The Cabinet is requested to recommend that investment in the property fund portfolio increase from £7 million to £10 million.

3. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

The Revenue Budget and Treasury Management Strategy reports assist in the achievement of all of the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy priorities and Five-Year Plan outcomes.

4. Other Implications

(a) Financial

The financial implications will be considered as part of the investigation into the proposal for a Residents Card. The financial implications relating to the property fund portfolio are set out in the report on the Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16.

(b) Risk Management

There are no risks associated with this report.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act or Other Legal Implications associated with this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no identified need for a further Equalities Impact Assessment (an EIA on parks efficiencies and charges is included in Appendix K to the Revenue Budget report).

5. Background

- 5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a number of budget reports at its meeting on the 5 February 2015, which included that Revenue Budget 2015/16 and Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16.

Revenue Budget 2015/16

- 5.2 In scrutinising the proposed Revenue Budget for 2015/16, Members discussed the proposed increase in fees and charges regarding sport pitches and allotments. Members expressed concern in relation to the percentage increase in fees for adult football and cricket, which if implemented would have a 55% and 112% increase respectively in fees from the current position. Officers explained that following a benchmarking exercise against similar Local Authorities, the fees being proposed would bring the charges in line with the level of fees currently being charged by those Authorities.
- 5.3 In the ensuing discussion, Members noted that a number of Local Authorities operated a Residents Card Scheme, which provided a discounted rate for residents of the Borough on a number of services, including fee charges for sport pitch hire. Committee Members agreed that further work be undertaken to investigate the introduction of a Residents Card which would be applicable to a range of services, including leisure activities and parking charges.

Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16

- 5.4 Members considered details of the Treasury Management Strategy. In noting the current levels of investments and the type of institution invested in, Members were of the view that the Council commit to increasing its investment in the property fund from £7 million to £10 million.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Having examined the budget papers for the financial year 2015/16, Committee Members recommend that Cabinet give consideration to introducing a Residents Card and increase the Council's investment in the property fund as outlined.

7. Background Papers