

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Officer Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Nicola Horsey, Assistant Director Community and Regulatory Services
<b>Date:</b>	3 January 2017
<b>Title:</b>	Increase in Libraries Fines and Charges from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2017
<b>Reference:</b>	8063

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#### **1. The decision:**

- 1.1. To implement a revised Hampshire Library Service Fines and Charges Policy for Library Customers with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.
- 1.2. As part of the above policy, to increase selected fines and service charges to bring them in line with other local authorities and to reflect the true cost of providing these services.
- 1.3. To review the Fines and Charges Policy document every 3 years and the level of fines and charges annually.

#### **2. Reason(s) for the decision:**

- 2.1. The income from fines and charges is used to support the delivery of a comprehensive and efficient Library Service as required under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964.
- 2.2. There has been no uplift in fines and charges since 2011 and Hampshire has fallen behind compared to the charges being levied by other local authorities.
- 2.3. During last year's work with the Libraries Task Force, members expressed concern at the low level of charges for some services e.g. music sets.
- 2.4. The Library Service Charging Policy aims to apply charges to cover the costs associated with delivery of services. The Joint Service Management Team will review their charges annually paying due regard for inflation, compliance with the corporate charging policy, equality of access to services as well as charges of other similar Local Authorities in the rest of England. The policy retains reduced charges for vulnerable adults and children.

**3. Other options considered and rejected:**

- 3.1. Retaining the existing level of fines and charges would not reflect the full costs associated with the delivery of some services and may affect the sustainability of others.
- 3.2. Uplifting the full range of fines and charges would be in direct conflict with the aim to promote access and usage of library services, particularly by vulnerable groups on low incomes

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

- 4.1. None

**5. Dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service:**

- 5.1 None

**6. Supporting information:**

- Summary document of all proposed changes

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**3 January 2017**

**(Nicola Horsey, Assistant Director Community and Regulatory Services)**

**On behalf of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services**