

**CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FAIRER  
CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY**

*To:* **Adults Committee**

*Meeting Date:* **11 January 2018**

*From:* **Executive Director, People & Communities**

*Electoral division(s):* **All**

*Forward Plan ref:* **Not applicable**      *Key decision:* **No**

*Purpose:* **The report sets out consultation process that is underway to gather views on the proposals agreed for consultation at the Adults Committee on 9 November 2017.**

*Recommendation:* **The Committee is asked to:**

**Note the consultation process that will run until 23 February 2018.**

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 At the Adults Committee meeting on 9 November 2017, Members considered four proposals for changes to the Fairer Contributions Policy. Options for potential changes were discussed and the Committee confirmed the options that should be consulted on in line with Government requirements for changes to contribution/charging policies.
- 1.2 Care and support provided under the Care Act 2014 is subject to means testing to determine how much each service user should contribute to the cost of their care and support. The process of financial assessment used to determine this contribution is carried out in line with Department of Health guidance. This income is used within the Adults budget to offset the cost of the care and support provided to people in Cambridgeshire and contributes to the Council's ability to support the people in most need of care and support.

## **2.0 Options included in the Consultation**

- 2.1 The following proposals have been included in the consultation, as agreed by the Committee.
  - 2.1.1 Amend the CCC Contributions Policy to allow the Financial Assessment Team to take into account the Enhanced Rate of Personal Independence Payment. Currently the enhanced rate is not taken into account.
  - 2.1.2 Amend the CCC Contributions Policy to enable the Financial Assessment Team to assess individuals who receive short term respite accommodation under residential rules. Currently the community or non-residential rules are used.
  - 2.1.3 Apply a charge for the appointee function for all service users who have capital above £1,000. Currently there is no charge for this non-statutory function.
  - 2.1.4 Make direct debit the default payment method for Adult Social Care invoices issued in respect of contributions towards the cost of care and support.

## **3.0 Consultation Process**

- 3.1 To consult on the four proposals, a questionnaire has been placed on the Council's website with supporting information to help to explain the possible impact of the changes on the contributions that people would make to their care and support. These are only examples, because each person's contribution is based on their individual circumstances and a financial assessment. The link to the website is:  
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults-&-older-people/care-and-support/paying-for-care/fairer-contributions-policy-consultation/>
- 3.2 To ensure that the people most likely to be affected by these changes are aware of the consultation, over 1000 individual letters have been sent to service users and/or their appointees or the person identified for correspondence on their case file. These letters also offer three face to face meetings during January where people can find out more about the proposals, ask questions and share their views.

- 3.3 The website and the letters also provide a contact email and a telephone number. The telephone number is being covered by a colleague from the Financial Assessment Team who has the technical knowledge to answer questions about the proposed changes.
- 3.4 Officers are also working with Cambridgeshire Alliance for Independent Living who support the service user Partnership Boards to ensure that people are aware of the consultation and have the opportunity to contribute their views.
- 3.5 The consultation runs until 23 February 2018. The results and comments from responses to the questionnaire, views gathered from face to face meetings and other contact through the channels provided will be presented to Members of the Adults Committee at their meeting on 8 March 2018, when Members will be asked to consider whether or not to agree the proposed changes to the Fairer Contributions Policy. The report will also try to demonstrate the potential impact that the changes could have on the lives of service users who may be affected by the changes.

#### **4.0 ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

Report authors should evaluate the proposal(s) in light of their alignment with the following three Corporate Priorities.

##### **4.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all**

There are no significant implications for this priority.

##### **4.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives**

The proposals above have been considered alongside the need to support people to live healthy and independent lives and continue to meet the requirements of government guidance on financial assessments for service user contributions to care and support packages.

##### **4.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people**

The proposals above have been considered alongside the need to support and protect vulnerable people and continue to meet the requirements of government guidance on financial assessments for service user contributions to care and support packages.

#### **5.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

##### **5.1 Resource Implications**

The proposed changes would increase the level of income collected as contributions to care and support, and reduce the level of debt accruing where contributions are not paid.

##### **5.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications**

There are no significant implications within this category.

### 5.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

The options set out above detail where there may be vulnerability to legal challenge and alternative options are offered to mitigate this risk.

### 5.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

The proposals only impact on those people assessed as having eligible needs for social care support which is a means tested service, and requires the Council to undertake financial assessments to determine the contribution that each individual should make towards their care and support.

### 5.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

The report describes a 12 week consultation, in line with the COMPACT, with feedback to the Adults Committee in March.

### 5.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category.

### 5.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

Source Documents	Location
The Care Act 2014	<a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted</a>
Factsheet 5: Charging and Financial Assessments	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-2014-part-1-factsheets/care-act-factsheets#factsheet-5-charging-and-financial-assessments">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-2014-part-1-factsheets/care-act-factsheets#factsheet-5-charging-and-financial-assessments</a>
Fairer Contributions Policy, Cambridgeshire County Council	<a href="https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults-&amp;-older-people/Fairer%20contributions%20policy.pdf?inline=true">https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults-&amp;-older-people/Fairer%20contributions%20policy.pdf?inline=true</a>