



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 22nd September, 2016

PORTFOLIO HOLDER – FINANCE, RESOURCES AND INCLUSION

27th June, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor Patrick (in the Chair)

Officers in attendance:

Wendy Fisher	Capital and Assets Programme Manager
Jack Fox	Assets Practitioner (Corporate)
Jo Paterson	Scrutiny and Committee Officer
Benjamin Smith	Trainee

Also in attendance:

Councillor Hyldon King – Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Brookes – Ward Councillor, Haverstoe Ward

PH.FR.1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

PH.FR.2 **PETITION – OPPOSING 30P CHARGE TO USE PUBLIC TOILETS IN CLEETHORPES**

The Portfolio Holder received a petition from residents opposing a 30p charge to use public toilets in Cleethorpes.

Ms. Fisher stated that there was a savings target of £100,000 to be made by introducing charges, with the cost of introducing gate mechanisms at toilet blocks being £250,000. She further advised that a Select Committee had been held and recommendations put forward to Cabinet.

The Portfolio Holder invited the lead petitioner, Councillor Brookes to present the petition.

Councillor Brookes raised concern for many of the elderly residents who had underlying health problems that would now face having to pay hundreds of pounds each year to use the public toilets. He explained that GPs had encouraged them to walk up to three miles per day, five days a week to boost their health and fitness. Some would have to visit public toilets once or twice at least during their walks. He also noted that there had been a rise in council tax and that the Council had a responsibility for adult health. He felt this was also beginning to have an effect on tourism within the area, as school teachers organising school trips faced having to arrange a class of 40 children to have 30p ready if they needed to use public toilets. He proposed having a charge involving a single coin, which would make things a lot simpler for visitors rather than having to find two coins.

Councillor Patrick challenged some of the figures quoted by the lead petitioner and wished to clarify some details.

Councillor Hyldon-King confirmed that a small working party had been held and she had acknowledged that savings had to be made. She had raised the issue of families with children coming to Cleethorpes and the difficulties the elderly have. She also noted that all seaside resorts she had visited made charges for public toilets.

Ms. Fisher confirmed that her team were in the process of reviewing this matter however it was still early days. She was aware that the footfall had been less than anticipated and that we needed to continue to look at the various options over the next few months.

RESOLVED – That the petition be received and the Assets team continue to review the process and look at options over the coming months.

There being no further business, the Portfolio Holder closed the meeting at 9.50 a.m.