

FINANCE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022/23 QUARTER 2

5. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

- 5.2 The Panel discussed the Finance Performance Report 2022/23 Quarter 2 Report at its meeting on 7th December 2022.
- 5.3 Following questions from Councillors Pickering and Gray relating to the drop in parking revenues and whether this trend was expected to continue, the Panel were advised that this was linked to the delay in the Civil Parking Enforcement Act but that further detail would be sought and communicated to the Panel.
- 5.4 Councillor Gray observed that the figures relating to One Leisure were concerning and questioned the Executive Councillor on his confidence in the plan to increase fees and charges across the leisure centres. The Panel were advised that One Leisure had been heavily affected by the increase in energy costs and the recent rise in minimum wage, but that significant debate had been had surrounding the increase to fees and charges. Councillor Gray reflected that this report had been published after the decision on fees and charges had been taken and thereby queried how the Cabinet had been able to make the decision without the supporting information. The Panel were assured that by applying the proposed fees and charges to the Quarter One figures, the Cabinet had been able to forecast the impact this would have. The Panel were further assured that the figures would continue to be monitored so that further action could be taken to remedy lost revenue and footfall through commercial strategies or alternative pricing structures in the future.
- 5.5 Following a question from Councillor Blackwell relating to the reduction in Court Fees linked to Housing Benefit, the Panel were advised that the Officer would investigate the detail on the subject and communicate that back to the Panel.
- 5.6 Following the discussion, the Panel observed that they were generally in support of the recommendations being endorsed but requested that the Executive Councillor for Leisure attend a future meeting of the Panel to help answer questions on the financial details behind the decision to raise One Leisure fees and charges.