

# Medium Term Financial Plan

## Initial Equality Impact Assessment of Budget Proposal 2024/25



### 1. The Proposal

**Budget Theme:** Income - linked to adult social care services  
**Budget reference:** INC02  
**Budget proposal 2024/25 (£):** £860,000

The following savings are included within this Theme:

Directorate Reference	Service Area	Budget Proposal	2024/25 Budget reduction
ASS02	Care in the Community	Increase in income from increase to benefit rates which will increase maximum charges.	£850,000
ASS03	Care in the Community	Extra Care - leasehold charge to self-funders	£10,000
Total			£860,000

## Theme Narrative:

Annual increase in fees and charges for adult social care related services specifically linked to the national increase in benefit rates.

## Summary of changes:

### ASS02 – Care in the Community

Increase in income from increase to benefit rates which will increase maximum charges.

Following government announcements to changes in pensions, benefits and minimum income guarantees, the Council will review all financial assessments and client contributions and adjust the amounts that clients will need to contribute towards their care. This will be based on their income and the amount that the government identifies that clients can retain before making any contribution. The financial assessment process involves a means test that ensures that contributions are affordable. Income from charges will grow in line with pension increases at c9%

### ASS03 – Care in the community

Extracare – Leasehold charge to external funders

The leasehold charge that covers the core care costs is met by tenants in the newest Extra Care scheme run by the council. It is proposed to bring the other 4 schemes in line with this model and charge each tenant an equal share of the core costs. The proposal will phase the implementation limiting the charge to new tenants.

**Is any of the proposals within this theme a continuation of a previous medium-term financial plan saving?**

Yes No

**If yes, please insert reference number and year of assessment?**

Budget Proposal	Year of assessment	Budget Reference
Increased client contributions to reflect increases in benefits and pensions	2023/24	ASS13

**If yes, please describe what steps you have taken to review the equality impacts from previous years?**

Client contributions continue to be subject to a mean-test based financial assessment which means that the customers' ability to pay social care fees will be looked at and assessed on an individual case by case basis.

## 2. Customer equality impact summary

Will the proposal have a disproportionate impact on any of these groups?

Budget Proposal	Equality Impacts – Please consider any potential equalities impacts based on the protected groups below. Please answer High (H), Medium (M), Low (L) or None (N)										Positive (+) or Negative (-)
	Disabled People, including those who are neurodiverse	Race	Men or Women, including those who are pregnant	Sexual Orientation	People on a low income	Age	Religion or belief or none	Marriage or civil partnership	Gender reassignment	Other, for example parents, carers or the Armed Forces. *	
ASS02	L	N	N	N	L	L	N	N	N		-
ASS03	L	N	N	N	L	L	N	N	N		-

### 3. Explanation of customer impact

#### **ASS02 – Care in the Community**

Increase in income from increase to benefit rates which will increase maximum charges.

Clients in receipt of care, who are most likely to be older people, or disabled people will be asked to contribute more towards their care because of increased costs to the Council and increases to pensions and benefits. However, this contribution will continue to be based on a means-tested financial assessment. It is also expected that the government will announce increases to the Minimum Income Guarantee and the Personal Expenses Allowance (i.e. the amounts that clients can keep before they start paying for their care) in line with inflation, which should mitigate the impact.

Most clients whose care is arranged by the Council have a maximum weekly charge, which results from their financial assessment. For non-residential care packages, this averages at around £70 per week and for residential care, the average is around £210 per week for older people and £100 per week for younger adults.

Clients who are “self-funders” will feel the full impact of increases in costs, i.e. they will be expected to pay in full for any cost increases that arise from increases in provider costs.

#### **ASS03 – Care in the community**

Extracare – Leasehold charge to external funders

It is anticipated that this proposal will have a low impact on older people, disabled people, and those with a low income.

The revised charges will only come into effect for new tenancies, therefore not impacting current tenants. As with all council commissioned care services these charges will be subject to a financial assessment to establish ability to pay. For those tenants already in receipt of a care package this charge will be added to the amount they are liable for but in all cases will be capped by the maximum charge determined by the means test. Self-funders will have to pay the full charge.

#### **Please describe how you will communicate these changes to your customers.**

As part of the Financial Assessments annual review process, which is undertaken prior to the start of each financial year.

### 4. Staff equality impact summary

**Are there any staffing implications for this proposal?**

Yes

No

## Explanation of staff impact

N/A

## 6. Review and Sign Off

### Service Manager Review

Insert any service manager comments here:

**Is a further detailed equality impact assessment needed?**

Yes

**No**

**If 'yes', when will the further assessment be completed?**

**Service Manager:**

Gerald Hunt

**Date:**

19 January 2024