

CONCESSIONARY FEES AND CHARGES

PORTFOLIO HOLDER CLLR ALISON SMITH MBE

**Previous recommendation to Cabinet**

*Change the level of discount applied to certain concession with effect from April 2014: Bulky Waste Removal; Casual Swimming and some aspects of Pest Control*

**Consultation responses from Members of the Public**

- Comment that more rats are now around since the council started charging for visit by Environmental Health and will end up with mounds of open compost....ideal places for rats to hide
- Put out leisure centres to trust/private company.
- Reduce opening hours at the recycling centres by one hour per day for much larger savings.
- Since the majority of proposals affect recipients of a range of benefits, many of whom may have protected characteristics, it is imperative that the Council first satisfies its equality duty as no evidence of an Equality Impact Assessment has been included.

**Consultation responses from Working Groups, Unions etc**

- These same vulnerable people are to be targeted by changing the level of discount in concessionary fees and charges relating to bulky waste removal, casual swimming and pest control. This may lead to more fly tipping and unsightly waste piling up in some front gardens, all of which affects the surrounding community. Affordable pest control is important to prevent disease spread by vermin.

**Consultation responses from the Executive Consultation Meeting**

- None on this issue

**Consultation responses from the Coalville Special Expenses Working Party**

- None on this issue

**Consultation responses from the Policy Development Group**

- None on this issue

## **Officer Comments**

- There is no evidence to suggest that population of rats in N W Leicestershire growing and calls to the Council to report a rat sighting and the number of treatments carried out have fallen in recent years. There is also no evidence to suggest having a compost heap leads to more rats.
- Keeping these in-house is in line with our strategy of maintaining valued services whilst driving efficiencies. These services will be subject to efficiency reviews and other options will always be considered if it can be demonstrated that Council Tax payers would benefit from alternate service delivery models.

## **Recommendation**

In considering all the consultation responses the following recommendation are now proposed to Cabinet

To introduce the proposed changes to the level of concessions for the following services from 01/04/14

- Bulky waste collections from 100% to 50%
- Non-public health related pest control services (wasps, fleas, bedbugs) from 100% to 50%
- Leisure Link category 1 casual swimming from 100% to 50% (Year 1) and from 50% to 25% (Year 2)