

**RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

DECISION

Agenda Item No

meeting date: 7 JUNE 2011
title: MEALS ON WHEELS CHARGES
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
principal author: LAWSON ODDIE

- 1 PURPOSE
 - 1.1 To seek member approval on proposals for the council's charge for the provision of meals under the Meals on Wheels Service in 2011/12.
- 2 BACKGROUND
 - 2.1 Reports were previously brought to this Committee for the approval of other fees and charges in November 2010 and January 2011. At this time it was not possible to set the charges for Meals on Wheels for 2011/12 due to uncertainties surrounding funding and the supply of meals. This has now been resolved for 2011/12 and member approval is now sought on the level of charges for the current financial year.
 - 2.2 A Meals on Wheels service is provided in most areas of the borough by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS), based on referrals from Social Services.
 - 2.3 Not only do they provide a hot meal delivery service, but they also keep a vital, caring eye on the recipients and provide them with regular social contact. On occasions they have also raised the alarm about a person in distress.
 - 2.4 The cost of the meals and volunteer mileage is met by the Council, with each meal recipient currently paying £1.50 per meal. The charge has been set at this level since 1 April 2005, prior to which the charge was £1.25. In 2010/11 the council received £11,360 in income from these charges.
 - 2.5 In addition to this income the council also receive a grant from Lancashire County Council under the Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications Act 1983. This grant is based on 50% of this Council's Meals on Wheels and Luncheon Club costs up to a ceiling calculated using the pensionable population of the borough and a per capita multiplier. For the financial year 2010/11 this grant amount to £24,180.
- 3 FUTURE CHARGES FOR 2011/12
 - 3.1 Confirmation of the external grant funding from Lancashire County Council for the Meals on Wheels service for 2011/12 has now been received.
 - 3.2 Furthermore the Council, together with the WRVS, has secured alternative suppliers for meals provided in some of the areas served by the service. This will help reduce the costs of the service that are met by the council.
 - 3.3 As a result it is proposed that the Council freeze the charge that it makes to service users for the provision of a two course meal under the Meals on Wheels service at £1.50 per meal.

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 The Council has now received confirmation that the grant funding that it receives for the service will continue for 2011/12.

4.2 The Council, together with the WRVS, has worked to minimise the costs of the service whilst ensuring no compromise on quality for the users of the service. This has helped to allow the council to propose a freeze on charges for 2011/12.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

5.1 Consider freezing the Meals on Wheels charge at £1.50 for the financial year 2011/12.

HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

PF34-11/LO/AC

25 May 2011