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### Key Issue

To approve a policy for setting prices, charges and fees relating to the use of the Basingstoke Canal

### Summary

The Basingstoke Canal Authority Prices, Charges & Fees Policy 2016-2019 seeks to set a robust, fair and transparent framework for officers set all prices, charges and fees annually in the budget.

### Officer's recommendation

To adopt the Basingstoke Canal Authority Prices, Charges and Fees Policy 2016-19.

#### 1 Introduction & background

The Basingstoke Canal Authority officers currently use local market knowledge to set all prices, charges and fees for use of the Canal. This Policy seeks to set out a clear rationale and framework for the setting of all prices and charges and ensure increases in all prices, charges or fees are fair and transparent.

#### 2 Consultation

The Treasurer and Partnership Officers have been consulted in the preparation of the Policy. It seeks to match that of the BCA's host Authority – Hampshire County Council, as closely as possible. A wider consultation on the setting of policy is not thought to be appropriate.

#### 3 Discussion

The Canal Strategy envisages that the Canal will become increasingly self sustaining over time; continual review of prices, charges and fees will contribute to the healthy development of the Canal as a sustainable economic unit. The policy requires that all activities on the Canal are fully costed, using the Full Cost Recovery Model. This ensures that uneconomic activities do not lead to an additional financial burden on the BCA's budget.

The policy requires that officers produce an annual schedule of prices and charges to be included in the annual budget setting. The Policy proposes that an annual increase in all prices and charges should default to a minimum of 5% annually, unless market demands or an alternative business case suggest otherwise.

#### 4 Equalities & diversity implications

The BCA are mindful of social inclusion issues; the majority of the Canal site is freely available to the public on foot and bicycle, or at a low charge to fish or canoe. Even where parking charges

have been introduced the Blue Badge scheme operates for disabled visitors. Carers and young people are offered discounts.

## **5 Crime & disorder implications**

There are considered to be no major crime and disorder issues

## **6 Conclusion and recommendation**

The Policy adds a transparent framework for officers to use in the setting of all prices, charges and fees for the Canal; and will contribute towards the BCA becoming more financially sustainable. It is recommended that the Committee adopts the Policy.

## **7 What happens next**

The Policy will be adopted for a period of three years, at which point it will be reviewed and any changes brought back to the Committee for decision.

Officers will use the Policy to set an annual schedule of rates for prices, charges and fees to be included in the annual budget for the BCA Canal Partnership.

## **Associated Documents**

Basingstoke Canal Authority Prices, Charges & Fees Policy 2016-2019