Scope for Scrutiny Review of Income Generation

By Scrutiny (Audit and Value for Money Council Services) Committee

Date presented: Tuesday 25th July 2017

Background:

In the Revenue and Capital Outturn Report Quarter 3 2016/17 it was highlighted that there were three significant budget pressures which all relate to fluctuations in relation to our income levels are a key risk area highlighted within the Council's approved medium term financial strategy.

The three areas were:

- Recycling Income
- Markets Income
- Planning Income

In the Quarter 4 Revenue and Capital Outturn Report the same three areas were highlighted as having a negative impact on the Council's finances…

- A reduction in recycling income levels of £109k, largely as a result of lower market prices;
- Planning fee income was also lower than budget following the adoption of the local plan (£99k);
- There was also a negative variation (£230k) in relation to markets activities, largely arising from Income being lower than budgeted.

As such the Committee decided to review the Council's current income streams to identify our current position and how we compare to other Councils in terms of the income we bring in.

Scrutiny Review Scope and Terms of Reference

The following questions have been suggested in order to provide a focus for this review. Please note that the list below is not exhaustive. The committee is not limited to answering only the questions contained within this scoping paper.

1. Gain a clear understanding of the Council's current means of income generation.

2. What is the process for setting fees and charges?

3. How does our income generation compare with that of other Councils?

The Committee may also want to consider the following as part of the review:

4. What services the Council is permitted to charge for and how this compares with other councils.

5. Identify areas of the Council's work where we there could be potential to introduce charges.

6. Give thought to the possible impact of introducing charges.