



Council

FEES AND CHARGES - 2009/10

(Report of the Head of Financial, Revenues and Benefits Services and the Head of Leisure & Arts)

1. Summary of Proposals

To present the fees and charges for 2009/10 for Leisure Services deferred from Council of 19 January 2009.

The Council is asked to approve the fees and charges as detailed in the main body of this report following a request at Full Council on the 19 January 2009 for further information. The Council is also asked to approve the fees and charges in their entirety, although these have not been included in the current report.

This report details the rationale behind the proposed increases shown in Appendix H of the Full Council report dated above and appendices include comparisons with other neighbouring local authority's pricing structures.

2. Recommendations

The Council is asked to RESOLVE that

- 1) **in cases where:-**
 - a) **fees or charges are statutory;**
 - b) **fees and charges are set externally (for example under the Model Scheme of Charges for Building Control fees & charges);**
 - c) **the Council has delegated authority for Officers to vary fees and charges to take account of various circumstances; or**
 - d) **fees and charges are established under separate processes, for example the setting of Taxi Fares,**

the requirement for a general minimum 5% increase in fees and Charges be waived;

- 2) **the proposed fees and charges for 2009/10, as listed in the appendices to the report submitted to the Executive Committee on 7 January 2009 and subject to the amendments recommended below, be approved**
- 3) **the requirement for a general minimum 5% increase in fees and charges for Leisure Services be waived;**
- 4) **the proposed fees and charges as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to this additional report be approved; and**
- 5) **the concessionary element of the Reddicard be reduced from 50% to 25%.**

3. **Financial, Legal, Policy, Risk and Sustainability / Environmental Implications**

Financial and Policy

- 3.1 The overall minimum increase in fees and charges agreed at Council on 27 October 2008 of 5% has generally been applied. This means that in some cases an increase greater than 5% has been proposed whilst in others the proposed increase is less. Where an overall increase of 5% is not proposed a note of explanation has been provided.

Legal

- 3.2 A number of statutes governing the provision of services covered by this report contain express powers or duties to charge for services. Where an express power to charge does not exist the Council has the power under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 to charge where the activity is incidental or conducive to or calculated to facilitate the Council's statutory function. The details of the powers to levy particular charges may be obtained from the Head of Financial Services.

Risk

- 3.3 If the Council's fees and charges are not increased at least in line with inflation each year then the level of subsidy will increase which has a direct impact on the level of Council Tax or the Housing Revenue Account.

Report

4. Background

- 4.1 Comments relating to the service are shown in the Appendices.
- 4.2 The Council's Financial Regulation D11 requires an annual review of fees and charges to be undertaken. Traditionally, this review is carried out as part of the budget preparation cycle.
- 4.3 This current review has been carried out in accordance with the budget preparation guidelines reported to the Council on 27 October 2008.

5. Key Issues

- 5.1 The key issues relating to individual service areas have been detailed in the appendices.
- 5.2 The Reddicard scheme consists of three elements: the Reddicard price, the non Reddicard price and the concessionary price. Currently the concessionary price equates to a 50% reduction to the standard Reddicard price.
- 5.3 Officers are recommending that this concessionary element be reduced to 25%. (The effect of this reduction can be seen in table one at Appendix 1. See note one within the pricing rationale and Reddicard concessions at appendix 2)

6. Other Implications

Asset Management	None
Community Safety	None
Human Resources	None
Social Exclusion	The report includes a number of fees and charges where there are concessions to assist with issues relating to social exclusion / inclusion.
Sustainability	None

7. Conclusion

The proposed charges set out in the appendices should, if approved by members, generate a minimum 5% increase in income, unless otherwise stated.

8. **Background Papers**

Budget Guidelines Report (Council 27 October 2008).

List of Legal Powers.

9. **Consultation**

Relevant Borough Council Officers have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

10. **Author of Report**

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11. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Current and proposed fees and charges with rationale relating to proposed charges

Appendix 2 - Comparison fees and charges with neighbouring authorities