

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Cultural Services and Sport
2.	Date:	29th June 2010
3.	Title:	Tennis Court Hire Charges
4.	Directorate:	Environment & Development Services

5. Summary

In order to address an issue relating to tennis court hire a change was made to the fees and charges schedule, which introduced a charge per person rather than per court from April 2010. However it has become apparent that this new policy unfairly penalises customers playing doubles and a solution is recommended. The current policy also has had an effect on the take up of this facility by some customers and will detrimentally affect income.

6. Recommendations

That the fee for the hire of Culture & Leisure tennis courts be changed with immediate effect to bring the fee for doubles play into line with that for singles play by not charging for the 3rd and 4th player on any court.

7. Proposals and Details

The previous fee for court hire has been open to abuse as one customer could buy a season ticket, hire a court and then play with as many other people, for as long as they wanted. It was discovered that some tennis clubs were buying a minimal number of season tickets and then block booking courts for several hours at a time.

In order to stop this activity a change was made so that each player must hold their own ticket to play and the price per ticket was halved to keep the price of a court in line with previous charges and at a reasonable market level.

Following representations from tennis players the new policy has been found to unfairly penalise customers playing doubles and a solution is recommended. The current policy also has had a negative effect on the take up of this facility by some customers and will detrimentally affect income to RMBC.

To keep the whole court cost to a reasonable market level when more than two players play on any court it is proposed that the two least expensive tickets are not charged for when more than two people play ie in doubles games.

8. Finance

Income targets for 2010/11 are based on previous years income levels and may be affected negatively if a reduction for doubles play is not made.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The main risk is to do nothing as income will continue to fall. Increased income is predicted if the recommendation is followed but this cannot be guaranteed.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

These proposals meets the following priorities:

- **Rotherham Alive** by providing accessible tennis facilities for Rotherham residents.
- **Rotherham Sustainable** by providing facilities with an ongoing income to RMBC.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

2010/11 Fees and charges

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