

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LIFESTYLE, SPORT AND TOURISM**

**Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate  
Street, Rotherham. S60  
2TH**

**Date: Tuesday, 12th April, 2011**

**Time: 10.00 a.m.**

### **A G E N D A**

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th March, 2011 (herewith) (Pages 1 - 2)
4. Grange Park 2011 Fees and Charges (report herewith) (Pages 3 - 5)

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LIFESTYLE, SPORT AND TOURISM**  
**8th March, 2011**

Present:- Councillor St. John (in the Chair) and Councillor Falvey.

**F55. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 18TH FEBRUARY, 2011**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Lifestyle, Sport and Tourism held on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2011.

With regards to Minute No. 54 (Bowling Greens Budget Savings) it was noted that some consultation meetings had been arranged. In addition, interested parties had also been invited to express interests in taking over responsibility for maintenance of greens or to suggest alternative greens for consideration.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member held on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2011, be signed as a true record.

**F56. YORKSHIRE LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Elenore Fisher, Cultural Services Manager, which set out details with regards to Yorkshire Libraries and Information (YLI), of which Rotherham was a member. Yorkshire Libraries and Information was a regional community of public libraries working together to offer cost effective, quality services to partners. The responsibilities for Yorkshire Libraries and Information included the maintenance of a section (authors N-S) of the National Joint Fiction Reserve and a regional Music and Drama loan collection. Yorkshire Libraries and Information proposed to discontinue and dispose of the Fiction Reserve collection and to review delivery of the Music and Drama collection.

Additionally, several library authorities were considering withdrawing from the Music and Drama service which could increase the costs for those which remained. The Yorkshire Libraries and Information constitution required a full twelve months notice of withdrawal, which meant that notice of intent to pull out of the service in the year 2012-13 must be received by Yorkshire Libraries and Information by 31st March, 2011.

It was noted that if the situation altered during the course of the year it was possible for Rotherham to opt back into the Music and Drama service. However, if the number of participating authorities decreased there could be a substantial increase on the annual charge for the authorities that remained.

Discussion ensued on the numbers and types of subscribing groups to the Music and Drama service, the implications to service users of the withdrawal of the service and the risk of an increased cost in 2012 should Rotherham remain part of the service. It was suggested that prior to the meeting of the Yorkshire Libraries and Information next Thursday that contact be made with Rotherham's Operatic and Drama Association to ascertain their views on the proposed withdrawal from the service.

Resolved:- (1) That the ending of the Yorkshire Libraries and Information Fiction Reserve collection and its sale to a book dealer and/or a salvage company for the best price available be noted.

(2) That notice be given to withdraw from the Yorkshire Libraries and Information Music and Drama collection as of 1st April 2012, but that a further report be submitted to the Cabinet Member in six months time for a review of the decision based on feedback from the Music and Drama service users and whether the number of participating authorities had decreased.

#### **F57. CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES: FEES AND CHARGES 2011/12**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Marie Hayes, Events and Promotions Service Manager, which outlined the annual review of Culture and Leisure fees and charges for 2011/12.

The annual review of fees and charges for Culture and Leisure had recently taken place in line with the Service's Pricing Policy adopted in 2005. Where appropriate, charges have been increased by at least the rate of inflation. Where charges have been increased by less than inflation rate or remained the same, this was because either increasing a price would incur additional costs (e.g. for changing ticket/photocopying machines) or where managers felt that an increase would affect customer levels.

It should be noted that several core services still remained essentially free of charge, e.g. public library service, museum service, archives and local studies service and casual access to green spaces and children's play areas. Where there was a charge there was often a concessionary rate and, particularly related to leisure activities, a junior Rothercard rate. Concessionary customers were not restricted to access at off-peak times as was the case in many other local authorities.

It was noted that the charges for allotments were for financial year 2012/13, but this was because it was Rotherham's practice for allotment holders to receive twelve months' notice of any increase in line with Allotment Act Legislation. These charges were still below comparable local authorities and it was the intention to carry on increasing them above inflation each year until we reached a comparable rate.

An amendment to the pricing schedule was noted which allowed bowling teams visiting bowling greens in order to play league matches to be charged a flat rate fee per match to allow for more efficient collection of fees for this service.

The proposed charges were with effect from 1st April, 2011 (26th March, 2011, for Country Parks and 1st September, 2011, for the Civic Theatre).

Clarification was sought on the concessionary rates/users in relation to room hire as set out in the fees and charges and the facilities on offer at the Town Hall.

Resolved:- That the fees and charges as set out in the report be approved.

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Culture, Lifestyle, Sport &amp; Tourism</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> April 2011</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Grange Park 2011 Fees &amp; Charges</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Streetpride</b>

**5. Summary**

Grange Park Golf Course management have requested an increase in fees above those allowed by the agreed operating terms in order to allow the course to remain financially sustainable.

**6. Recommendations**

**That the Cabinet Member approves the fee structure for Grange Park Golf Course as requested by Grange Park Golf Club Ltd.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

The Directors of Grange Park Golf Club Ltd.(GPGC) have proposed increases to Green Fees and Season Tickets above the level of increases allowed in the agreed operating terms. These increases are requested because the existing fee structure no longer reflects the golf market and is risking the financial sustainability of the course at Grange Park.

A report was previously brought to cabinet member for Cultural Services and Sport in July 2010 regarding proposed increases to season ticket prices at Grange Park. The contents of the report were agreed by cabinet member which would allow GPGC to increase prices for existing members at a slower rate than this new proposal and at a level which has not been found to be financially sustainable.

The course fees at Grange Park have fallen some way behind comparable municipal courses and do not reflect the level of investment made by GPGC, which has seen the quality of the course improve over the tenure of GPGC. In order to provide realistic pricing benchmarked against sub-regional municipal courses the following pricing structure is proposed:

	Current Midweek	Proposed Midweek
Green Fee	£13.60	£17.70
Season Ticket	£240.00	£345.00
	Current Weekend	Proposed Weekend
Green Fee	£15.40	£20.30
Season Ticket	£420.00	£552.00

By comparison to the following courses charge:

	Midweek Green Fee	Midweek Season Ticket	Weekend Green Fee	Weekend Season Ticket
Crookhill - Doncaster	£15.30	£375.00	£16.30	£470.00
Normanby Hall - Scunthorpe	£17.40	£453.00	£19.40	£510.00
Bradley Park - Huddersfield	£17.50	N/A	£19.00	£457.50
Barnsley Municipal	£15.00	£430.00	£19.00	£530.00
Tinsley Park - Sheffield	£14.00	N/A	£18.00	£564.00
Lupsett Park - Wakefield	£13.50	£285.00	£16.00	£415.00
<b>Average</b>	<b>£15.45</b>	<b>£385.75</b>	<b>£17.95</b>	<b>£491.08</b>

Although the proposed prices are an increase above inflation it should be noted that the proposals are **maximum** prices and will allow GPGC to introduce "Twilight" tickets, winter reductions and other promotions to increase usage at quieter times.

The management of GPGC believe that although the maximum green fees would be slightly higher than other local courses, the new prices are more reflective of the quality of the course and the local golf market is willing to pay the slightly higher fee as the course quality merits it.

## 8. Finance

RMBC currently leases the golf course and the club house in two leases to Grange Park Golf Club Ltd at a combined rent of £31,800 per annum plus 3% of retail turnover from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009. New heads of terms are currently being negotiated to simplify the current lease situation and extend the lease period. A further report will detail these proposals and be brought for cabinet member approval.

## 9. Risks and Uncertainties

No new risks or uncertainties have been identified.

## 10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

This continued successful operation of Grange Golf Course meets the following priorities:-

- **Rotherham Alive** by providing high quality golf facilities for Rotherham residents.
- **Rotherham Sustainable** by providing facilities with an ongoing income to RMBC.
- **Rotherham Proud** by encouraging tourism within the borough by providing a venue suitable for tournament golf.

## 11. Background Papers and Consultation

Officers in Financial Services have been consulted and support the recommendation.

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