

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Culture, Lifestyle, Sport and Tourism
2.	Date:	8th March, 2011
3.	Title:	Culture and Leisure Services: Fees and Charges 2011/12
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

The report outlines the annual review of Culture and Leisure fees and charges for 2011/12.

6. Recommendations

6.1 That the fees and charges set out at Appendix A be approved.

7. Proposals and Details

The annual review of fees and charges for Culture and Leisure has 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 remain the same, this is because either increasing a price would incur additional costs (e.g. for changing ticket/photocopying machines) or where managers feel that an increase would affect customer levels.

It should be noted that several core services still remain 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 is a charge there is often a concessionary rate and, particularly related to leisure activities, a junior Rothercard rate. Concessionary customers are not restricted to access at off-peak times as is the case in many other local authorities.

The charges for allotments are for financial year 2012/13. This is because allotment holders have to receive 12 months' statutory notice of any increase in line with Allotment Act Legislation. These charges are still below comparable local authorities and it is the intention to carry on increasing them above inflation each year until we reach a comparable rate.

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

8. Finance

The impact of the charges will be closely monitored to ensure that income targets are being reached and that prices are reviewed throughout the year as demand dictates.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Where income targets are already stretched decisions have been taken to either leave the charge the same or increase by inflation rate only.

However, activities and services will still offer good value for money.

Service Managers will continue to act on customer feedback when appropriate.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Sustainability: The proposals outlined will make a contribution to the sustainability of the service.

Corporate Priorities: The services/activities provided meet the Council priorities of improving lifestyle, health and skills and contribute to creating safe and healthy communities.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The charges have been developed in consultation with the Cultural Services Manager and Leisure Services Manager and Service Managers across the Service.

Appendix A – Proposed Fees and Charges 2011/12.

Appendix B – Fees and Charges Front Sheet 2011/12.

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