

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member and Advisers for Culture and Tourism
2.	Date:	Tuesday 15th January 2013
3.	Title:	Leisure and Green Spaces Fees and Charges 2013/14
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

The report outlines proposals arising from the annual review of fees and charges for Leisure and Green Spaces.

6. Recommendations

6.1 That the fees and charges set out in Appendices A and B be approved.

7. Proposals and Details

The annual review of fees and charges for Leisure and Green Spaces has recently taken place. Where appropriate, proposed charges have been increased by at least the rate of inflation. Where charges have been increased by less than the inflation rate or remain the same, this is either because implementing a price increase would incur additional costs (e.g. for changing ticket machines) or because managers feel that a unit price increase would reduce overall income due to its impact on levels of business. It should be noted that several core services still remain essentially free of charge, e.g. casual access to green spaces and children's play areas. Where there is a charge there is often a concessionary rate and, in some cases, a junior Rothercard rate. Concessions are not restricted to off peak times as is the case in many other local authorities.

In most cases the proposed charges would take effect on 1st April 2013. However, as indicated in Appendix B, proposed charges for allotments and Rother Valley Country Park watersports take effect on other dates. The proposed charges for allotments are for financial year 2014/15. This is because legislation requires 12 months' notice to be given of any rent increase. The proposed charges for watersports start on 16th February 2013, as this is when the service re-starts for the 2013 season.

8. Finance

The proposed increases are expected to generate the levels of income required to operate services within available budgets, taking into account a standard 2.5% increase in income targets being applied to all relevant budgets. 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

Any cost increase can have an adverse impact on levels of business, and this can make it difficult to meet income targets. Service Managers will continue to monitor usage and act on customer feedback when appropriate.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda

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

Corporate Priorities: The services 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 Service Managers across Leisure and Green Spaces.

Appendix A – Front Sheet

Appendix B - Leisure and Green Spaces Fees and Charges 2013/14

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