

## **Report to the Portfolio Holder for Community Development**

**Subject:** Community Centre Fees and Charges 2021/22

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Author:** Rachael Wade, Community Centres Manager

---

### **Wards Affected**

Borough-wide

### **Purpose**

The report details a revised set of charges and pricing structure for Community Centres and seeks approval for their introduction from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

### **Key Decision**

This is not a Key Decision

### **Recommendation(s)**

#### **THAT:**

1. To approve the revised 3% increase in Fees and Charges for 2021/22 as detailed in Appendix 1 and 2

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 A 3% income inflation increase for discretionary income has been agreed as part of the medium term financial planning by Cabinet for 2021/22. This was the optimum figure in terms of generating additional income from fees and charges to support a balanced budget.
- 1.2 With Portfolio Holder and relevant Corporate Director approval, discretion can be made to apply varying percentage increases to relevant fees and charges as long as the overall cash amount for that area are met. This allows consideration to be made for factors that influence the rate at which fees and charges are set.
- 1.3 These factors include:
  - The Borough's priorities;
  - The comparative price of neighbouring authorities;

- The effect an increase in price would have on the activity, including customer resistance; and
- The cost benefit of the service.

1.4 Pricing information, wherever possible has been gathered from neighbouring authorities and is detailed in Appendix 3. It should be noted that these are current year prices subject to increase by the individual authorities and that true comparisons are difficult to obtain due to the following factors:

- Size and type of facilities and their availability vary (for example access to wifi and kitchen facilities)
- Location of the facilities can have impact
- Local private competition/provision have an impact in some areas
- Non local authority provision tends to have a more flexible approach to pricing
- The application of discounts and concessions vary

There are also gaps in some comparative prices, as some authorities do not make a comparative provision to our own. From the evidence provided, it is clear that there is a real mixture of facilities available at the nearby centres and therefore makes comparison of rental values very difficult.

1.5 As part of the Council's aim to target activities for concessionary groups (such as children under 5, people over the age of 60, registered charities/youth groups and non for profit organisations) there is an ongoing discount for hirers providing opportunities for these groups, which is currently calculated as 25% of the full hire price. This discount will remain available.

1.6 In setting the new prices and keeping the current discounts, consideration has been given to a number of factors:

- Income targets for the Community Centres in 2020/21 have already been based on the 3% increase in the medium term financial plan;
- The awareness of comparative facilities for hire (e.g. other local authorities and private halls) and the sensitivity around price increases in the current economic climate (see Appendix 3);
- Analysis of the booking trends and income received at the Community Centres according to the variables of the pricing structure i.e. business, standard and concessionary for 2020/21 to identify the main revenue stream for Community Centres and where there may be scope to take a more targeted approach to the discounts received by the Councils priority groups;
- Council priorities and cost benefit to the service; and

1.7 Furthermore, officers would have undertaken usage and income analysis of the centres. However, due to the impact of Covid-19 on community centres and the partial closure for almost a year, it is difficult to present an analysis due to the considerable impact it has had on income and usage. There will also be challenges in predicting future income and bookings as a result of the uncertain impact of restrictions on local groups and businesses.

- 1.8 In addition to the above, as the emergency response to Covid-19 continues there could be an unforeseen additional use of centres for the purposes of humanitarian aid or testing/vaccinations. In these circumstances the Council would look to seek a reimbursement for the use of its facilities.
- 1.9 It has been concluded that a blanket approach to the price increase would be the most suitable course of action. All hire charges for the Community Centres will go up by 3% (rounded up to the nearest appropriate point) in line with the historical rate of inflation increase. The Brickyard Community Centre, which is a much smaller centre, has prices that are set at a lower price banding to make the centre more desirable to the market (and has resulted in an increased income for the centre). See Appendix 1 and 2 for proposed prices for 2021/22.

## **2. Proposal**

- 2.1 It is proposed the Fees and Charges are revised as detailed in Appendix 1 and 2. This proposes a 3% increase on all charges and it is recommended these be introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 (as per the standard approach agreed as part of the medium term).

## **3. Alternative Options**

- 3.1 For the pricing structure and discount levels to remain the same or an alternative percentage increase in inflation to be applied. Officers have considered these options and it is felt appropriate to continue with the blanket 3% rise that has been agreed as part of the medium term financial plan.
- 3.2 However, applying the 3% inflation increase and the revised pricing structure is considered to be most appropriate in meeting the budgetary requirements set up in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

## **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1. Applying the proposed Fees and Charges detailed in this report will increase discretionary income and attain the income target set.

## **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 None

## **6. Equalities Implications**

- 6.1 None – this report is not proposing to make any changes to the discounts already offered to concessionary groups and is proposing a blanket increase across the centre, so it is considered that there will not be any additional equality implications.

## **7. Carbon Reductions/Environmental Sustainability Implications**

7.1 None

## **8. Appendices**

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - Revised Fees and Charges 2021/22  
Appendix 2 – Brickyard & Burton Road Community Centre Pricing  
Appendix 3 - Other local authority charges

## **9. Background Papers**

- 9.1. None identified.

## **10. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 10.1. To contribute to the delivery of a balanced budget both in 2021/22 and in the medium term, and satisfy statutory requirement.

### **Statutory Officer Approval**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**On behalf of the Monitoring Officer**

**APPENDIX 1 – PROPOSED HOURLY RATE INCREASE FOR KILLISICK, POND HILLS LANE AND WESTDALE LANE  
COMMUNITY CENTRES FOR APRIL 2021\***

	Current Price 2020/21 Per hour	Proposed Price Increase 3% Per hour
Standard Rate	Main Hall	<b>Main Hall</b>
Weekday		
8am - 5pm	14.90	<b>15.30</b>
5pm - 10.30 pm	22.80	<b>23.50</b>
Weekend - Sat/Sun		
8am - 5pm	18.20	<b>18.70</b>
5pm - 10.30pm	26.00	<b>26.80</b>

**Please note:**

Business rates are charged at Standard rate plus 25% and Concessionary rates are charged at Standard minus 25%.

\*A separate rate to apply to the Brickyard and Burton Road Community Centres – see Appendix 2.

**APPENDIX 2 – PERMANENT HOURLY RATE AT THE BRICKYARD AND BURTON ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE**

<b>Hire Rate (per hour)</b>	<b>Brickyard Current Price</b>	<b>Brickyard Proposed increase</b>	<b>Burton Road Current Price</b>	<b>Burton Road Proposed increase</b>
<b>Standard – weekday</b>				
8.00 am – 5.00 pm	£9.00	<b>£9.30</b>	£10.00	<b>£10.30</b>
5.00 pm – 10.30 pm	£13.70	<b>£14.10</b>	£10.00	<b>£10.30</b>
<b>Standard - Sat/Sun</b>				
8.00 am – 5.00 pm	£10.90	<b>£11.20</b>	£10.00	<b>£10.30</b>
5.00 pm – 10.30 pm	£15.60	<b>£16.10</b>	£10.00	<b>£10.30</b>

### APPENDIX 3 – COMPARISON WITH OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Based on standard daytime rate (2020/21) per hour				
Authority Area	Centre/Pavilion/Hall	Weekday	Weekend	Notes
Gedling Borough Council	GBC Community Centres (Pond Hills, Westdale Lane & Killisick)	£14.90	£18.20	
Gedling Borough Council	Pond Hills Lane – GBAA	£8.00 £5.00	£8.00 £5.00	Main Hall Small Room
Gedling Borough Council	Brickyard Community Centre	£9.00	£10.90	
Gedling Borough Council	Burton Road Community Centre	£10.00	£10.00	This rate is the same for evenings
Gedling Borough Council	St Georges Centre	From £30	N/A	Kitchen extra £25
Gedling Borough Council	Loco Centre	From £20	N/A	Kitchen extra £15
Gedling Borough Council	Good Shepherd Church Community Centre	£10 - £37 day £12 - £49 eve		20% discount for regulars and charities
Gedling Borough Council	Haywood Road Community Centre	£11.00 £13.00	£11.00 £13.00	Standard Business
Nottingham City Council	Chase Neighbourhood Centre	£14	N/A	Additional caretaker fee for evenings & weekends
Nottingham City Council	Edwards Lane Estate	£14.95	£14.95	
Nottingham City Council	Sherwood Community Centre	£18.00	£18.00	An additional £25 caretaking fee at weekends
Nottingham City Council	Bakersfield Community Centre	£27 - £30 or £10 – £12	£27 - £30 or £10 – £12	(with a £60 yearly affiliation fee)
Rushcliffe Borough Council	Gamston Community Hal	£35	N/A	Some discounts applied
Rushcliffe Borough Council	Gresham Pavilion	£27	N/A	Some discounts applied
Newark & Sherwood	Hawtonville Community Centre		£15 Sundays only	Additional £5 p/h for use of kitchen. £8.00 p/h for use of foyer area.
Newark & Sherwood	Coddington Community Centre	£14 - £28	N/A	
Newark & Sherwood	South Scarle Community Centre	12.00	N/A	Tables, crockery, cutlery additional charge