

## **Report to Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance**

**Subject:** Community Centre Fees and Charges 2024/25

**Date:** March 2024

**Author:** Building Services & Compliance Officer

### **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 2024.

### **Key Decision**

This is not a Key Decision

### **Recommendation(s)**

- a) To approve the 13% increase in Fees and Charges for 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 1 and 2

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 A 5% income inflation increase for discretionary income has been agreed as part of the medium term financial planning by Cabinet for 2024/25. This was the optimum figure in terms of generating additional income from fees and charges to support a balanced budget.
- 1.2 The fees and charges for the community centres haven't been increased since 2022 and are therefore the Council are currently charging groups the rates as shown in Appendix 1. Although this report highlights the need for a 5% increase for the new upcoming financial year (2024-25), consideration should be given to the previous proposed increases for 2022-23 (3%) and 2023-24 (5%). This makes the overall increase of the fees and charges 13%.

- 1.3 This increase will bring the hire rates back in line to what they should actually be, allowing income to be more in line with current MTF Plan budgetary requirements, whilst also safeguarding activities in the centres that support concessionary groups and ultimately, reduce the running costs the community centres to the Council.

## **2 Proposal**

- 2.1 It is proposed the Fees and Charges are revised as detailed in Appendix 1 and 2. This proposes an increase on all charges (13%) and it is recommended these be introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

## **3 Alternative Options**

- 3.1 An alternative option is for the pricing structure and discount levels to remain the same. This option was dismissed as it is contrary to the percentage rise that has been agreed as part of 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 Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows Local Authorities to charge for leisure and community facilities. Under this section a local authority may provide, such recreational facilities as it thinks fit and, either without charge or on payment of charges as the authority thinks fit.
- 5.2 The use and hiring of the community centres should only be hired with an appropriate hire agreement containing the terms and conditions of hire.

## **6 Equalities Implications**

- 6.1 An equalities impact assessment can be found in Appendix 3

## **7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications**

- 7.1 The additional income generated from the charge increase will give the Council the opportunity to reinvest into the centres and enhance the energy efficiency of the buildings.

## **8 Appendices**

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - Proposed Hourly Rate Increase for Killisick, Pond Hills Lane and Westdale Lane Community Centres
- 8.2 Appendix 2 – Permanent Hourly Rate at The Brickyard and Burton Road Community Centre
- 8.3 Appendix 3 – EIA – Community Centre Fees & Charges 2024-25
- 8.4 Appendix 4 – Fees & Charges Benchmarking against other Local Authorities

## **9 Background Papers**

- 9.1 None identified.

## **10 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 10.1 To contribute to the delivery of the medium-term financial plan.
- 10.2 To enable the Council to meet its income targets for the centres and reduce the running costs to the Council by offsetting the additional income generated against the expenditure.

### **Statutory Officer approval**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**On behalf of the Monitoring Officer**