Gedling Borough Council

Report to the Leader of the Council

Subject: Community Centre Fees and Charges 2015/16

Date: 2 February 2015

Author: Service Manager, Community Relations

Wards Affected

Borough-wide

Purpose

The report details a revised set of Fees and Charges for Community Centres and seeks approval for their introduction from 1st April 2015.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision

Background

1.1 A 3% income inflation increase for discretionary income has been agreed by Cabinet for 2015/16. 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.
- The cost benefit of the service.

1.4 Pricing information, wherever possible has been gathered from neighbouring authorities and is detailed in Appendix 2. 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

- 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.

1.5 As part of the Councils aim to target activities for concessionary groups (such as children, people over the age of 60 and registered charities) there is an ongoing discount for hirers providing opportunities for these groups, which is calculated as 50% of the full hire price.

Those groups that fall into the category of 'for profit' but deliver activities to the Council's priority groups (such as children and the over 60's) receive a discount of 25% of the full hire price.

1.6 In setting the new prices consideration has been given to a number of factors:

- how the community centres are currently performing
- income targets for the community centres in 2014/15 based on the 3% increase and therefore where this additional income can be generated from.
- 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

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). See appendix 1 for proposed prices for 2015/16.

Proposal

2.1 It is proposed the Fees and Charges are revised as detailed in Appendix 1. This proposes a 3% increase on all charges and it is recommended these be introduced on 1st April 2015.

2.2 Prices have been set to achieve the discretionary income target due to the Cabinet agreed inflation increase, in consideration of the aforementioned factors.

Alternative Options

3. An alternative percentage increase for inflation could have been applied. This however would not have been in consideration of the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan or current CPI inflation measures.

Financial Implications

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

Appendices

5. Appendix 1 – Revised Fees and Charges 2015/16
Appendix 2 - Other local authority charges

Background Papers

6. None identified.

Recommendation

a) To approve the revised Fees and Charges for 2015/16 as detailed in Appendix 1.

b) To agree for the price revisions to be introduced from 1st April 2015.

Reasons for Recommendations

7. To contribute to the delivery of a balanced budget both in 2015/16 and in the medium term, and satisfy statutory requirement.

Gedling Borough Council

APPENDIX 1 – PROPOSED PRICE INCREASE FOR APRIL 2015
(rate per hour £)

	Current (14/15)		Proposed Price Increase 3%	
Community Centres	Main	Committee	Main	Committee
Standard rate - Weekday				
9am - 5pm	12.50	6.40	12.90	6.60
5pm - 11.3 pm	19.10	9.60	19.70	9.90
Standard rate - Sat/Sun				
9am - 5pm	15.20	8.10	15.70	8.30
5pm - 11.30pm	21.70	10.90	22.40	11.20

	Current (14/15)				Proposed Price Increase 3%			
	Full price	Gedling Leisure Card	Concessionary Leisure Card	Junior Leisure Card	Full price	Gedling Leisure Card	Concessionary Leisure Card	Junior Leisure Card
Indoor Bowls (2hr session)	7.80	6.80	3.50		8.00	7.00	3.60	

APPENDIX 2 – COMPARISON WITH OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES

	NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES PRICE COMPARISON (2014/15) Based on Standard hire hourly rate				
	Gedling – Main Hall all Centres	Nottingham City	Broxtowe	Newark and Sherwood	Ashfield
Standard weekday before 5.00 pm	£12.10	Bestwood Estate Community Centre £13.00 (£50 refundable deposit) Bakersfield Community Centre £5.80 (Meeting room) - £16 (Main hall) per hour	Toton Greenwood Community Centre £15.50 Beeston Rylands Community Centre £10.00	Hawtonville Community Centre Main Hall £14.00 £5.00 kitchen use £20 per hour (business use)	Heelswood Community Centre Main Hall £8.50 Harwood Court Community Centre Main Hall £13.00
Standard weekday after 5.00 pm	£18.50	Bestwood Estate Community Centre £13.00 (£50 refundable deposit) Bakersfield Community Centre £5.80 (Meeting room) - £16 (Main hall) per hour	Toton Greenwood Community Centre £15.50 Beeston Rylands Community Centre £10.00	Hawtonville Community Centre Main Hall £14.00 £5.00 kitchen use £20 per hour (business use)	Heelswood Community Centre Main Hall £8.50 Harwood Court Community Centre Main Hall £13.00
Standard weekend before 5.00 pm	£14.80	Bestwood Estate Community Centre £13.00 (£50 refundable deposit) Bakersfield Community Centre £5.80 (Meeting room) - £16 (Main	Toton Greenwood Community Centre £15.50 Beeston Rylands Community Centre	Hawtonville Community Centre Main Hall £14.00 £5.00 kitchen use £20 per hour (business use)	Heelswood Community Centre Main Hall £15.00 Harwood Court Community Centre Main Hall £17.50

		hall) per hour	£10.00		