

Key issues raised in previous community centres pricing and letting policy consultation in 2005.

- Concern that attendance might go down if high charges have to be paid.
- Concern that groups won't be able to pay to use centres.
- Charges would require the collection of money from members, setting up of accounts and payments of small sums of money for those groups currently having free use.
- Some groups contribute to the upkeep of their local centre, do not receive funding and rely on free room hire to sustain activities.
- Community service providers working for no financial reward should be recognised.
- High charges for groups on Friday evenings and weekends are seen as unfair and there were some examples of groups who can't meet at weekends anymore.
- Some users have had free use for many years and feel it should continue.
- Many users are on low incomes.
- Community Centres should be seen as an essential resource in the regeneration of Leeds.
- Concessions should be the same across the city.
- Some commented that existing charges are unfair.
- If Groups have to move to different centres because they can't afford council centres it will discourage engagement as familiar surroundings support involvement particularly with elderly and disabled groups.
- Concerns about the possible introduction of increased charges for facilities that are of poor quality.
- If higher charges are imposed support for fundraising is required.
- Some groups said they were experiencing difficulties in booking rooms in centres and there was a need for a better system than at present.
- Some people thought there was a lack of clarity in the draft policy about proposed charges and concessions (although the consultation did explain that information about charges and discounts would follow later after the consultation on the policy).