

Report of Project Officer

Report to Chief Officer Parks and Countryside

Date: 5th December 2014

Subject: Revision of Parks and Countryside Charges 2015

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): All	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. To seek approval to implement a review of charges for the Parks and Countryside Service from January 2015 for the hire of sports pitches, charges for golf courses, charges for funfair operators to use Parks and Countryside sites, entrance charges for Temple Newsam Farm and casual use of bowling greens.

Recommendations

2. The Chief Officer of Parks and Countryside is recommended to implement the table of charges as shown in Appendix A.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To seek authorisation to implement the revised charges for the hire of sports pitches, use of golf courses, casual use of bowling greens and entrance charges for Temple Newsam Home Farm as per the table shown in Appendix A from January 2015.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The majority of charges for the sports and associated facilities managed by the Parks and Countryside Services were last reviewed and implemented in the financial year 2014/15.
- 2.2 This report proposes that the revised charges are implemented from 2nd January 2015.

3 Main issues

- The structure of the fees has been increased broadly in line with inflation. All seasonal sports pitch allocations are VAT exempt with the exception of casual hire bookings.
- The proposed revised charges will help to contribute towards the cost of keeping the sports pitches, bowling greens, golf courses, changing rooms, major visitor attractions and parks up to standard. The provision of such facilities increases learning, community engagement and aids the health and well-being of the participants.
 - The full list of proposed charges is attached at Appendix A.

3.1 Football and Rugby

- 3.1.1 It is proposed that a 3% rise be applied to the cost of hiring both pitches and changing room facilities in line with inflation.
- 3.1.2 The net result will be an increase in the cost of hiring a senior grass pitch for football, rugby union and rugby league to £569.00 per season for adults. This equates to an increase of 4p per game which is illustrated in Table 1.
- 3.1.3 Table 1: Pitch hire costing increases.

	Senior	
	2014	2015
Pitch hire cost	£552.00	£569.00
Pitch hire cost season per player	£42.46	£43.77
Pitch hire cost per player per week	£1.52	£1.56

*Based on a minimum squad of 13 players per team across a 28 week season

3.2 Hockey and Cricket

- 3.2.1 Participation on LCC sites in these sports is relatively low with few clubs seeking an allocation on council managed facilities. It is proposed that for these sports a 3% price rise in line with inflation.

3.3 Bowls

- 3.3.1 It is proposed that the casual use of bowling greens will increase by 3% in line with inflation to £2.05 for a morning, afternoon, or evening bowling session.

3.4 Golf

- 3.4.1 It is proposed that charges to use golf courses will increase by 3% in line with inflation. To maximise the sale period of the new season ticket for 2015/16 and attract new customers, 15-month season tickets (January 2015-March 2016) for the price of a 12 month season ticket will be made available to new customers at the proposed 2015/16 season ticket cost.

3.5 Funfair Pricing

- 3.5.1 It is proposed that charges for funfair organisers to use Parks and Countryside sites shall increase by 3% in line with inflation.

3.6 Entrance Charges – Temple Newsam Home Farm

- 3.6.1 Temple Newsam Home Farm entrance charges are proposed to be increased by 3% from January 2015.
- 3.6.2 A price comparison exercise has been undertaken of entry fees at comparable attractions to Temple Newsam Home Farm as shown in the table below:

Attraction	Adult (£)	Child (£)	Free ticketholder
Yorkshire Wildlife Park	15.50	12.50	Under 3s
The Deep, Hull	11.50	9.50	
Harewood House	10.00	9.00	
Tropical Butterfly House, Sheffield	9.00	8.00	Under 3s
The International Centre for Birds of Prey	8.00	5.50	Under 4s
York Bird of Prey Centre	6.50	4.50	Under 3s
Cannon Hall Farm, Barnsley	6.95 (weekends) 4.95 (week days)	6.95 (weekends) 4.95 (week days)	Under 3s
Hesketh Farm Park, Bolton Abbey	5.00	5.50 Under 2's 2.50	Under 1s
Filey Bird Garden	4.50	4.00	Under 2s
Ponderosa, Batley	4.50	4.00	Under 2s
Average	8.15	6.95	
Temple Newsam Home Farm	3.50	2.20	Under 5s

- 3.6.3 As illustrated in the table overleaf the average entry fee for adults is £8.15 and for children is £6.95. This is considerably higher than the entry fees currently charged at Temple Newsam Home Farm.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 As price rises are in line with inflation with no significant increase no formal consultation has been undertaken. All charges increases will be notified by the appropriate means. All sports associations will be notified in advance of the price increase for pitches.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 An equality screening form has been completed for these revised charges and there were no identified equality impact issues given that the proposed increase in price is proportional in nature.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The Vision for Leeds 2011 to 2030 sets out an objective to ensure all Leeds' communities are successful. A part of this is detailed as ensuring local cultural and sporting activities are available to all, and that there are high quality green spaces which are clean and looked after.

The Council's Plan on a Page sets out as one of its objectives to become a *more efficient and enterprising council*. Maximising income and trading, and reducing costs and increasing value for money comes as part of this objective. This revision of Parks & Countryside charges works towards these goals. The Best Council Plan 2013-17 sets six objectives, one of which is to ensure the provision of high quality public services to achieve the three outcomes desired by LCC by 2017.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 The provision of sports pitches and major visitor attractions across the city creates many opportunities to involve local communities by bringing them closer together to aid their health and social well-being.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 The effect of the proposed price increases will not exceed the major decision threshold and the decision is operational in nature and is therefore not eligible for call in.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 Presently the provision of grass sports facilities is heavily subsidised. Failure to ensure that cost of service increases in line with inflation will result in an expansion of the existing level of subsidy, which when considered in line with the present budgetary pressures within the service and directorate would constitute a notable budgetary risk. These price changes come as part of a wider aim across the Council to reduce its budget in line with cuts and make its services more sustainable.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The proposed revised charges will help to contribute towards the cost of keeping the sports pitches, bowling greens, golf courses, changing rooms, major visitor attractions and parks up to standard. The provision of such facilities increases learning, community engagement and aids the health and well-being of the participants.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Chief Officer Parks and Countryside is recommended to note the content of this report and to implement the table of charges as shown in Appendix A.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 Appendix A – Table of charges
- 7.2 Equality screening form

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.