



Report of Parks Technical Officer

Report to Chief Officer Parks and Countryside

Date: 25th November 2019

Subject: Revision of Parks and Countryside Charges 2020/21

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open 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

1. Main issues

- This report seeks approval to implement an inflationary increase of charges relating to the Parks and Countryside service for the hire of sports pitches, bowling greens, golf courses, funfairs, entrance charges for Temple Newsam Farm, Tropical World, Lotherton Hall and fees for the flying of model aircraft at Middleton Park.
- The full list of proposed charges is attached at Appendix A.

2. Best Council Plan Implications (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

- 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.

3. Resource Implications

- The use of sports pitches and visits to the major visitor attractions across the city contributes to the revenue income of the authority. Visits to these attractions also encourages secondary spends in cafés and shops where they are located.

Recommendations

- a) The Chief Officer Parks and Countryside is requested to approve the table of revised charges as shown in Appendix A from 6th January 2020.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To seek approval to implement an inflationary increase of charges relating to the Parks and Countryside service for the hire of sports pitches, bowling greens, charges for golf course use, funfair operators, entrance charges into Temple Newsam Farm, Tropical World, Lotherton Hall and fees for the flying of model aircraft at Middleton Park. To implement the table of revised charges as shown in Appendix A from 6th January 2020.

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 April 2019.
- 2.2 The report proposes that the revised changes are implemented from 6th January 2020.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The structure of the fees has been broadly increased by 3% in line with the rate of inflation. All seasonal sports pitch allocations are VAT exempt with the exception of casual hire bookings.
- 3.2 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 those who participate.
- 3.3 The full list of proposed charges is attached at Appendix A.
- 3.4 **Football and Rugby**
- 3.4.1 It is proposed that a 3% rise be applied to the cost of hiring both pitches and changing room facilities. The net result will be an increase in the cost of hiring a senior grass pitch for football, rugby union and rugby league to £660.00 per season for adults. This equates to an increase of 5p per game which is illustrated in table 1.
- 3.4.2 Table 1: Pitch hire costing increases.

	Senior	
	2019	2020
Pitch hire cost	£640.00	£660.00
Pitch hire cost season per player	£49.23	£50.77
Pitch hire cost per player per week*	£1.76	£1.81

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

3.5 Hockey and Cricket

3.5.1 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.

3.6 Bowls

3.6.1 It is proposed that the casual use of bowling greens will increase by 3% in line with inflation to £2.32 for a morning, afternoon, or evening bowling session.

3.7 Golf

3.7.1 It is proposed that charges to use golf courses will increase by 3% in line with inflation.

3.8 Funfair Pricing

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

3.9 Flying of Model Aircraft

3.9.1 The proposed fees for 2020/21 are adults £21.20 and juniors £10.30, a 3% increase in line with inflation.

3.10 Entrance Charges – Temple Newsam Home Farm, Lotherton Hall and Tropical World

3.10.1 Temple Newsam Home Farm, Tropical World and Lotherton Hall entrance charges are proposed to be increased by 3% in line with inflation.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

4.1.1 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 the nature of the proposed changes.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

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.

Climate Emergency

4.3.2 The Parks & Countryside service set out the approach to adapting to climate change in parks and green spaces in the Executive Board report from September 2019.

4.4 Resources, procurement 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 key 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 many of these facilities is 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.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Chief Officer Parks and Countryside is requested to approve the table of revised charges as shown in Appendix A from 6th January 2020.

7. Background documents¹

- 7.1 None.

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.