

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 3 SEPTEMBER 2008

MANAGEMENT OF SPORTS AND LEISURE FACILITIES AT GRANGE AND ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMIES

Joint report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services and Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet of the management arrangements to be put in place for the leisure and sports facilities at the new Grange and St. Joseph's Academies and seek approval for an interim charging structure for community use of these facilities.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The creation of excellent leisure facilities was a key element during the design stage of the new school facilities. It was believed that this would benefit the pupils and staff in the delivery of the Physical Education curriculum and assist the schools in meeting national targets of two hours per week of high quality physical activity. Experience, obtained from other school build projects, confirmed that these facilities would also benefit the wider communities in which the schools were located as public use of the school buildings outwith the school day would ensure that the Council could meet its ambition of maximising the use of the facilities at all times.
- 2.2 Extensive new indoor sports and leisure facilities will be available for community use at both PPP Academy campuses by early October. These facilities will be augmented by two full size floodlit synthetic grass pitches in August 2009. The new facilities represent a significant addition to range and quality of provision currently available in Kilmarnock.
- 2.2 Several options for the management of community use of the new facilities were investigated during the development of the PPP project and it was agreed that management by the Council's Leisure Services would be the most appropriate option. With this in mind community access to facilities was negotiated and agreed with the PPP contractor.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The Council had negotiated use of the leisure facilities from 5pm until 10 pm on Monday to Friday and from 9am to 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the calendar year, with the exception of bank holidays.
- 3.2 It is proposed that from Monday 1st September at St. Josephs Academy and from Monday 8th October 2008 at Grange Academy that the Sports Hall, Gymnasia, and other public areas will be managed by Leisure Services during school term weekday evenings, weekends and school holidays. It is proposed to market these

facilities with the names of Grange Leisure Centre and St. Josephs Leisure Centre. An activity programme will be developed to maximise public use, promote sports development and accommodate school events which are held out of school hours. As the synthetic grass pitches are completed they will also be managed by Leisure Services with players using the changing provided in the new school buildings. Community access to facilities in evenings during the school holidays is currently the subject of negotiations with the facility provider.

- 3.2 Leisure Services will provide staff at both sites to supervise activities, take payments for activities, set up equipment and promote sports and leisure opportunities. Leisure Services will also provide a booking service and undertake all administration in relation to community use of the facilities. Staff will work closely with the schools sharing the site and with the PPP provider to ensure that community use integrates with school use and maximum benefits are secured from access to the new facilities.
- 3.3 A new charging structure needs to be developed for the PPP facilities; this will be done over the next few months and will be submitted for approval for implementation in April 2009/10. Charges for community use of Council premises are currently under review and the findings of this review will be considered later this year.
- 3.4 Sports clubs that formerly used facilities at Grange and St. Joseph's Academies did so under the discounted rates operated by Community Learning and Development. Most of these groups expect to be accommodated in the new facilities. The new facilities are far superior to the old ones however there would be a significant increase in charges to these groups if the charges operated by Leisure Services were implemented when the new facilities open. It is therefore proposed that all sports clubs transferring existing bookings from the old to the new facilities would continue to benefit from the approved Community Learning and Development charges until March 2009, while new clubs and individuals using the facilities will pay the Leisure Services charges. This proposal would allow existing groups time to prepare for a rise in charges, and will also allow the Council time to consider a new charging regime for community use of Leisure facilities. New clubs and individuals would pay the charges that are in place for sports facilities managed by Leisure Services across East Ayrshire. Transferring groups will begin using the new facilities as soon as possible, other groups will begin using the facilities in October. This review will consider offering discounted rates for sports clubs supporting athletes preparing for the 2012 Olympics and 2014 Commonwealth Games.
- 3.5 Full community access to the new facilities will be promoted and rolled out over the next few months in order to ensure that the requirements of schools and the community are effectively managed. No commitments to block bookings will be made beyond March 2009 to allow the most effective, balances programme can be offered from April 2009 onwards. The availability of facilities will be promoted over the coming months with an emphasis on building pay and play use, enhancing sports development activities and supporting local sports clubs.

Listed below are the proposed prices for the two facilities based on the current Leisure Services charges, adjusted to reflect the size of each facility. These prices have been benchmarked with other local providers and neighbouring Authorities and have found to be consistent with the current level of provision on offer elsewhere of a comparable size.

GRANGE	Full Hall	Half Hall	Badminton Court	Gym Hall	Community Hall	
Adult	£44.00	£22.00	£4.50	£14.00	<i>FER</i>	£35.00
Concession	£22.00	£11.00	£3.50	£7.00	<i>FER</i>	£35.00

ST. JOSEPHS	Full Hall	Half Hall	Badminton Court	Gym Hall	Community Hall	
Adult	£40.00	£20.00	£4.50	£14.00	<i>FER</i>	£35.00
Concession	£20.00	£10.00	£3.50	£7.00	<i>FER</i>	£35.00

3.6 Community use of other areas of the schools, i.e. classrooms and other facilities will continue to be managed by Community Learning and Development staff.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Payment for community access to facilities for the times shown in paragraph 3.1 above is part of the negotiated agreement signed with First Class Consortium at Financial Close in July 2006.

4.2 The ongoing revenue budget requirement for the new facilities is made up of costs for staffing, promotion, equipment and materials, coaching and special events offset by income from usage. For the remainder of 2008/09 a budget of £80,000 has been made available to cover the revenue costs.

4.3 Annual net costs of approximately £180,000 will be required to operate both facilities for 2009/10 and beyond, however decisions on charges for use and support for clubs and greater understanding of the staffing levels needed to operate the facilities which will be gained in the coming months will inform the budget planning process and a more accurate estimated budget will be available for consideration in the 2009/10 budget development process. It is proposed that in the event that the facilities generate a financial surplus this is used to fund the purchase of equipment that will support both school curriculum and community use.

4.4 The additional costs of longer opening hours at weekends are currently being discussed with First Class Consortium. This would allow for greater use of the synthetic sports surfaces. The viability of securing these additional hours will be considered and reported back to Cabinet in due course.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY / IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Opening up the new sports and leisure facilities to the whole community supports the Improving Opportunities; Improving Community Safety; Improving Health, Eliminating Poverty and Promoting Community Learning themes of the Community Plan.

7. SUMMARY

- 7.1 The proposals outlined in this report have been developed by staff in both the Neighbourhood Services and Educational and Social Services Departments and represent the best way forward for opening up and providing community use of the excellent range of sports and leisure facilities now available at the Grange and St. Joseph's Academy campuses.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:-
- (i) approve the management proposals and prices detailed in section 3 of this report;
 - (ii) remit to Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services and Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to report back on budget proposals for 2009/10 in due course; and
 - (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report

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WS&GS/JAG

26th August 2008

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

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