

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 26 MARCH 2008

CHARGES FOR COMMUNITY USE OF COUNCIL PREMISES 2008/09

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services and Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of a review which will be undertaken in respect of the Council's letting policy and to seek approval for the revision of charges for the use of Council accommodation by community groups for financial year 2008/09.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Letting Charges

The Letting Policy identifies groups and organisations which the Council wishes to support in kind, through the offer of subsidised access to Council accommodation. The Letting Policy takes account of the final budget available and in terms of outwith hours use of schools, the cost associated with this. The limited resources are managed through the application of a Letting Plan across the Council area.

- 2.2 Educational services operate a Letting Plan which takes account of regular use of facilities and other facilities available locally. The plan endeavours to balance access, rationalise use of establishments and seeks to minimise the occasions where an establishment is open for only one user group.

The Council supports a large number of community groups through the letting of its premises and in the last financial year 15,588 lets were processed by staff in the Community Learning and Development Service.

2.3 Leisure Services : Sports Facilities

Leisure Services manage several sports halls, each is staffed throughout its opening hours and staff organise and promote sports and leisure activities. Activities are offered on a 'pay-and-play' basis with a balance of individual bookings and regular club bookings throughout the programme.

2.4 Leisure Services : Community Halls

The Community Halls managed by Leisure Services utilise the discounted rates in the Letting Policy, however, increasingly activities are promoted in these facilities (children's parties, fitness sessions etc) to ensure that facilities are well used and income is maximised.

3. REPORT

- 3.1** The Letting Policy in East Ayrshire presently recognises 7 separate categories of lets which differentiate the level of subsidy offered to each group or organisation. The proposed charges in respect of access to facilities managed by the Department of Neighbourhood Services is set out in schedule 1. Schedule 2 sets out the proposed charges for facilities which are managed through the Department of Educational and Social Services. Schedule 3 sets out the Letting Policy.
- 3.2** In order to provide clarity for Members, schedule 4 sets out the range of Council premises and the current management arrangements in respect of these. For ease of reference, schedule 5 sets out the community facilities where the letting is devolved to community associations.
- 3.3** There is sometimes confusion by the general public about the different charges associated with different facilities. The variation in charges generally reflects the different staffing requirements and access to resources within these existing facilities. However, it is recognised that there are a number of aspects of the Letting Policy which now requires to be reviewed. This would include:
- (i) the seven categories in the Letting Policy;
 - (ii) the opportunity to review the consistency of arrangements across the Council;
 - (iii) the future arrangements in respect of community use of PPP schools and;
 - (iv) a review of the current arrangements whereby community associations have devolved responsibility to arrange letting within community centres.

The outcome of this review will be brought to a future Cabinet meeting.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** In terms of educational premises, in excess of 90% of all lets administered are in receipt of a 90% subsidy on the rates charged ie category 5 or over. On average, these groups currently pay £4.60 an hour. It is proposed to increase this to £4.74.
- 4.2** In respect of community halls, managed through the Department of Neighbourhood Services, the increase that is proposed will also raise income by an average of approximately 3%.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Nil.

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** Actively promoting the access to, and use of, Council premises is a key objective within the promoting community learning theme of East Ayrshire's Community Plan.

7. POLICY/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** The review of charges is in line with the Council's policy of charging for services.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1** Lessees are advised of their responsibilities in conditions of let and guidance notes.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1** It is recommended that Members of Cabinet:
- (i) agree implementation of the revised charges for Council premises managed through Neighbourhood Services as of 1 April 2008;
 - (ii) agree implementation of the revised charges for the use of premises managed through the Department of Educational and Social Services as of 1 August 2008;
 - (iii) ask officers to return to Cabinet with the outcome of the review as set out in section 3.3 of the report as they are concluded; and
 - (iv) otherwise note the content of the report

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

21 February 2008
KG/JP

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Service : Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104 or John Griffiths, Tel: (01563) 578179.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICERS

KAY GILMOUR, HEAD OF SERVICE : COMMUNITY SUPPORT
JOHN GRIFFITHS, HEAD OF LEISURE SERVICES

REPORT TO SPECIAL CABINET - 26 MARCH 2008 - AGENDA ITEM 2E

**PROPOSED CHARGES FOR GAMES HALL MANAGED THROUGH THE
DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

ITEMS "CALLED IN"

SPORTS FACILITY CHARGES

1. Sports Hall

	07/08 £	08/09 £
Full Hall – Adult (Off Peak)	11.50	12.00
Full Hall – Adult (Peak)	18.00	20.00
Full Hall – Concession (Off Peak)	5.75	6.00
Full Hall – Concession (Peak)	10.00	12.00
Badminton Court – Adult (Off Peak)	3.25	3.50
Badminton Court – Adult (Peak)	4.25	4.50
Badminton Court – Concession (Off Peak)	1.75	2.00
Badminton Court – Concession (Peak)	3.25	3.50
Table Tennis – Adult (Off Peak)	2.25	2.50
Table Tennis – Adult (Peak)	3.25	3.50
Table Tennis – Concession (Off Peak)	1.25	1.50
Table Tennis – Concession (Peak)	3.25	3.50
Conditioning Room – Adult (Off Peak)	2.25	2.50
Conditioning Room – Adult (Peak)	2.50	2.75
Squash – Adult (Off Peak)	3.25	3.50
Squash – Adult (Peak)	4.25	4.50

Squash – Concession (Off Peak)	1.75	2.00
Children's Sessions	1.25	1.25
Commercial Hire – Main Hall	14.00	14.00

4. Pitch Hire Charge

	07/08 £	08/09 £
Over 19's per match	24.50	25.50
Over 19's training	19.00	20.00
Under 19's per match	14.00	14.75
Under 19's training	11.00	12.00

6. Doon Valley Swimming Pool

	07/08 £	08/09 £
Adult Swim	1.15	2.30
Concession Swim	0.60	1.20
Juvenile Swim	0.55	1.20
Child Swimming Lesson (block of eight)	8.00	19.00
Adult Swimming Lesson (block of eight)	12.00	19.00
Primary School Lessons (per child)	1.00	1.10
Children's Activity Session	1.00	1.25
Aqua Aerobics	2.00	2.75
Pool Hire (per hour)	12.00	20.00
Pool Party (2 hours)	N/A	40.00
Gym (per hour)	N/A	2.75
Gym and Swim 3 Month Card	N/A	£65.00

JMcG/SC